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An Aust[illegible] Foot Soldier.

Serfojie Rajah

AN

ACCURATE AND IMPARTIAL NARRATIVE

OF

THE WAR,

BY AN OFFICER OF THE GUARDS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

CONTAINING

THE SECOND EDITION

OF

A POETICAL SKETCH

OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793,

REVISED, CORRECTED, AND CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED,

WITH THE ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM HEAD-QUARTERS;

ALSO

A SIMILAR SKETCH OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1794;

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A NARRATIVE OF THE

RETREAT OF 1795,

MEMORABLE FOR ITS MISERIES.

WITH COPIOUS NOTES THROUGHOUT.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS

From Drawings taken on the Spot, defcriptive of the different Scenes introduced in the POEM.

VOL. I.

" *Per varios cafûs, per tot difcrimina rerum* " VIRG.

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CONTENTS

TO

VOLUME I.

PART I.

LETTER I. PAGE.
Containing an account of the memorable march to Greenwich, and the tedious voyage to Helvoetſluys 1

LETTER II.
A joyful Enlargement, or general Gaol Delivery—Remarks on the Zeal diſplayed by our good and faithful Allies—An account of the Battle of Nerwinden 5

LETTER III.
BOETSLAAR's ſpirited Defence of Williamſtadt—The French raiſe the Siege precipitately, and abandon their Expedition againſt Holland entirely 16

LETTER IV.
DUMOURIEZ' flight—Determination of the Congreſs at Antwerp—Advance to Flanders—COBOURG's Manifeſtos—Renewal of Hoſtilities—Poſition of the Allies—Attacks of the 1ſt and 2d of May—Their Conſequences 20

LETTER V.
The Coldſtream Guards under a heavy Fire—Their ſpirited Attacks upon the Wood of St. Amand—KNOBELSDORF plays the old Soldier—Succeſs of the Allies in every Direction 28

LETTER VI.
Advance of the Duke of YORK's, to join Prince COBOURG's Army—Battle of Famars—Inveſtiture of Valenciennes 36

LETTER VII.
Opening of the Trenches preparatory to the ſiege of Valenciennes—Bombardment of the Place—FERRAND's boaſted Sortie—Sufferings of the Inhabitants—Operation carried on by the Beſiegers 46

LETTER VIII.

Storming of the Hornwork—Consequent surrender of Valenciennes—Effects of the Bombardment—General Movement of the allied Powers 56

LETTER IX.

Circuitous Detour of the Allies, in order to encircle the French Army of the North—Failure of the Attempt—Unfortunate Division of the British and Imperialists—Affair of Lincelles 65

PART II.

Dedication 77

LETTER I.

One of the Aid-de-Camps to his Royal Highness sooths the Mind of his favourite Fair, and with a timid pencil, traces the comforts of his situation 79

LETTER II.

Plans for reducing Dunkirk—Successful Attack upon the French Outposts—Uncomfortable Situation of the Family and of the besieging Army 82

LETTER III.

Defeat of the Covering Army—Consequent Retreat from Dunkirk. 88

LETTER IV.

A Council of War—Intrepid Determinations—BEAULIEU seizes upon Menin—A settled Calm succeeds a threatened Storm 94

LETTER V.

An unexpected Movement—Reiterated Republican Attacks en masse produce bad news from CLAIRFAIT—Consolation afforded by a good Dinner—Retreat from Maubeuge—A Feu de joie 100

LETTER VI.

The Aid-de-Camp enraged, informs Miss LUCY of the Insolence discernable in Camp—High Treason defined—Adieu to St. Martins, Adieu to Tournay 105

LETTER VII.

Advance to Camphain—Affair of Lannoi—Recapture of Menin—Spirited Defence of Nieuport—Redemption of Flanders—Close of the Campaign 110

AUSTRIAN INFANTRY.

THE drefs of the Auftrian Infantry is, a white jacket that buttons ftraight down to the waift, with coloured collar, cuffs, and fkirts turned back, before and behind. The difference between the Hungarians and the reft, confifts merely in the former wearing *pantaloons*, and fhort half-boots (as defcribed in the plate, which fhould have been called, *an Hungarian battalion-man)* and the latter being cloathed in white breeches, and long black gaiters, like the Britifh. The corps of O'DONNEL have *green* jackets, with *red* pantaloons, and inftead of fmall leather, wear Huffar *caps*. The other *fri corps* are chiefly cloathed in grey, or green. In the frontifpiece to vol. II, the foldier is faced round, to fhew his *pouch*, *accoutrements*, and method of tying the hair. The front of the leather caps *turns* down, to guard the face from the *fun*, and, in wet weather, the back of the neck from rain. When in action the foldier ufually turns the plate behind, left its glittering fhould attract the notice of the enemy. Their parade drefs is in the plates alone defcribed; on duty, in camp, or on a march (except in the *heat* of fummer, when it is neatly rolled up, and flung over the right fhoulder) they at all times wear a loofe ftraight-cut great coat, of a light-brown colour, and put on their accoutrements above it. Thus appointed, as their firelocks are not highly polifhed, it becomes difficult for the enemy to afcertain their numbers, or to perceive their approach: in an inftant they can throw off *this furtout*, and appear perfectly neat and clean dreffed for parade.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER,

Tracing the causes and progress of the War, between Great Britain and the French Republic, previous to the embarkation of the Guards for Holland.

IN this happy Island, where freedom has taken deep root, and shot forth the most luxuriant branches, overshadowing the subject, and insuring to him personal security, and the full enjoyment of his property; where the limited sway of the monarch is blended with that of the nobility, and of the people, in so judicious a manner, that no branch of our glorious Constitution is allowed to preponderate to the detriment of the other component parts; the French Revolution, at its commencement, naturally met with many friends, appearing the struggle of a people groaning under the oppression of an arbitrary, unprincipled, and voluptuous court, for the blessings of that liberty which we, as Britons, so pre-eminently enjoy. But when we beheld that very people quitting the principles of freedom for the extravagance of licentiousness, breaking through every barrier, and carrying devastation where-ever they bent their head-strong course, slaves to every species of depravity, and committing hourly the most atrocious excesses, we turned from such scenes of horror with loathing and disgust.

The ambitious views of the heterogeneous rulers of in-fatuated France, led them, by the decree paſſed in the National Convention, on the 19th of November, 1792, to manifeſt the unwarrantable deſign of extending univerſally their new doctrines, and of encouraging, in all countries, inſurrection and revolt. Our government found it, therefore, highly expedient to look to its internal ſtate of defence, and to be fully prepared for any event that might enſue: the navy was accordingly increaſed, and put upon a reſpectable footing; and the army conſiderably augmented. Called upon by Monſieur CHAUVLIN, a citizen of the new-created Republic, (for after royalty had been aboliſhed in France, he could not, in this country, be received in any deplomatic capacity) to declare the reaſon of ſuch hoſtile preparations; our government juſtly alledged the determination of France to perſiſt in opening the navigation of the Scheldt, which was fully diſcuſſed in Parliament; and it was evident that a war between the two countries became for that reaſon unavoidable. Great Britain, however, made no advances towards it, willing to uſe every effort in her power to ſave the perſecuted LOUIS, at that time a priſoner, and undergoing a mock trial at the bar of the Convention. Had their monarch been acquitted, as the moderate party would thereby have gained the aſcendency, they probably might have relinquiſhed the arrogant plan of annulling all ſtipulations relative to the Scheldt. But no ſooner was the blade of that mercileſs machine, which had ſo long hung ſuſpended by a very ſlender thread over the mild and unfortunate LOUIS, ſuffered to deſcend,* to

* LOUIS the XVIth was executed on the 21ſt of Jan. 1793, by a ſentence, ſays Dr. MOORE, "in direct oppoſition to that Conſtitution

the aſtoniſhment and indignation of every man of common humanity, than the French put at once a period to all hopes of a pacific tendency, by precipitately declaring war againſt Great Britain.

Innumerable pamphlets have been ſent forth to prove that they were compelled to this meaſure in their own defence; but they were not ſurely compelled to open the river, which was the only object of contention; nor can any ſophiſtry perſuade a moderate Engliſhman that it would have been to our honour, or to our intereſt, to have permitted a ſet of men, who had aſſumed to themſelves a lawleſs authority, actuated by a moſt extravagant and tyrannical ambition, before their power had been eſtabliſhed even in their own country, to dictate to us in a haughty and imperious tone, and to aim at overthrow-

"adopted and ſworn to *by his judges*"—and with a very trifling majority of ſuffrages in the Convention for his death. It has been thought extraordinary, by thoſe who do not conſider the propenſity of the French to run into extremes, that they, who had been ſuch ſervile admires of their *grand monarche*, ſhould ſo ſoon throw off every ſentiment of reſpect, and not ſatisfied with bringing him to an ignominious death, treat his memory with ſuch indecency, as to paſs to the order of the day, when his dying requeſt was made known to the Convention, "that he might "be buried with his father," while Michael le Peletier, who was aſſaſſinated by Paris for having voted for the death of Capet, was interred with the higheſt national honours. It has been remarked alſo, that the 21ſt of the month ſeems to have been a date particularly ominous and fatal to Louis the XVIth; on the 21ſt of April 1770, he was married to a Princeſs whoſe imprudence certainly facilitated his ruin; 21ſt of June following, *the fete* took place in honour of his nuptials, when 1,500 of his ſubjects loſt their lives, by endeavouring, in an immenſe croud, to puſh through a ſquare at Paris which had formerly been a *thoroughfare*, but was at that time unknown to them ſtopped up; 21ſt of January 1791, he was arreſted at *Varrennes*; 21ſt of September 1792, he was dethroned, and royalty in France aboliſhed; and on the 21ſt of January 1793, he fell an *innocent victim* to popular frenzy, without a ſingle crime having been proved againſt him.

ing the commercial treaties then ſubſiſting between Great Britain and the other nations of Europe.

Difficult as it may be, when the oppoſition of opinions runs high, to avoid the violence of *parties; unconnected with, and independant of them all,* the author has, in the following pages, endeavoured to lay before the public an authentic and impartial narrative of the preſent extraordinary war, from the time Great Britain has been actually engaged in it, without further comment upon pollitical events, than is abſolutely neceſſary for that purpoſe. To that end he has traced out a *ſlight ſketch* of the operations carried on by our Allies engaged in the ſame cauſe, detailing more particularly the events that occurred where he had *himſelf* the honour, with his countrymen, to be employed.

While France was torn to pieces by internal commotions, the rabble running wild, and diſplaying the ferocity which ſome, even of their own writers, have thought a part of their natural diſpoſition, in a manner till then unknown in any civilized country, ſhe had, at the head of her armies, a general of uncommon abilities, both in the cabinet and in the field; who, with a ſet of miſerable ragamuffins, aptly termed Sanſculottes* of the firſt requi-

* This name was originally given to ſome of the loweſt ragged rabble of Paris, when the madneſs of party brought them into power; it was given alſo to the French ſoldiers, when they adopted as the moſt uſeful and economical dreſs, long cloſe trowſers. In ſome inſtances when they were firſt formed, it might have been applicable enough in the firſt or literal ſignification of the term. The method of recruiting the armies in France was rather ſingular, when the nation boaſted of its *liberty*. An armed force ſurrounded a *village*, the non-commiſſioned officers *entered it*, and every man of the age ſpecified according to the *requiſition*, was dragged forth and compelled to ſerve as a *volunteer*. Theſe ſoldiers, ſtyled themſelves (according to accounts received from priſoners) *Volontiers forcé.*

ſition, had oppoſed and conquered, in the campaign of 1792, an army of experienced veterans, regularly trained and diſciplined to the art of war, and deſervedly accounted the fineſt ſoldiers in the univerſe. Such was the rabble that DUMOURIEZ had collected, and ſo little confidence could he place in the bravery of his own ſoldiers, that he is ſaid to have thought it neceſſary, at the battle of Gemappe, to plant his troops of the line, and part of his park of artillery * in the rear of the national volunteers, threatening to fire through them upon the enemy, if they attempted to retreat. Though thouſands of theſe men were mowed down by the fire from the enemy's redoubts, he perſevered, and drove the Auſtrians from a poſition where they were entrenched in the completeſt manner, and defended by chains of batteries commanding each other upon regular heights, rendering the attack extremely hazardous, and the event equally doubtful.

It is well known that the invaſion of France by the Pruſſians and Auſtrians was undertaken at the inſtigation, and by the advice of the baniſhed princes of the houſe of Bourbon. The failure of the Duke of BRUNSWICK may

* This was generally believed, though DUMOURIEZ in his memoirs, ſtates the troops at the battle of *Gemappe* to have been actuated by no motive *ſtronger* than attachment *to himſelf*, and that enthuſiaſm naturally inſpired by the reflections ariſing from their fighting in the cauſe of *freedom*. He might have added the inſpiration of *Geneva*, which was in great quantities ſerved out to the French armies, whenever an engagement was expected.

DUMOURIEZ ſtates his loſs to have amounted only to 2,000 men, it was however univerſally computed at 10,000, and the Auſtrians reckoned it at 15,000. He certainly had the merit of rendering his troops deſperate in the attack, and his victory *was complete*, making him maſter of the *Netherlands*, for without meeting with any further ſerious oppoſition, *Mons*, *Bruſſels*, *Liege*, *Namur*, and *Aix la Chapelle*, fell into his poſſeſſion.

be eaſily, and in various ways accounted for. He entered France by the unwholeſome country of champaigne, at the head of an army, by no means adequately provided with *any one* requiſite for taking the field.

The King of PRUSSIA had unthinkingly liſtened to the emigrant princes, who aſſured him every gate would fly open on his approach, and that the peaſants would eagerly flock to ſupply his troops with forage and proviſions: they were therefore but little prepared for the fatal reverſe they experienced, and the oppoſition they met with, was encreaſed by the threatening and ill-judged manifeſtos of the Duke.

A dreadful dyſentery* enfeebled and diſheartened the coaleſced armies, rendered more virulent by eagerly devouring the unripe grapes, which cluſtering in their view, tempted them, as they marched through the vineyards. We may add to all this, the jealouſy that has ever exiſted between the two allied powers; often has the Duke of BRUNSWICK been heard to declare, he could eaſily have advanced *to Paris* with the ſame force well ſupplied with camp neceſſaries, and compoſed entirely of Pruſſians, or entirely of Auſtrians; but what could be expected, when, if a

* So diſtreſſed were the Pruſſians at the camp *de la lune*, near *Verdun*, owing to the *dyſentery*, and a want of *proviſions*, that *Dumouriez* declares they were reduced to the neceſſity of devouring the horſes that had had periſhed, from a total want of *forage;* the water alſo was of a bad quality in the extreme. Upon their retreat, when *Gen. Dampierre* was ordered to take poſſeſſion of the camp they had abandoned, he found it in ſuch a ſtate, that he was forced to withdraw his troops, leſt they might have caught that terrible diſorder, *the dyſentery*. "*On trouva le camp de la lune pleines de cadavres d'hommes, et des chevaux. Les foſſees étoient pleines de ſang; des malhereux ſoldats y étoient tombés et y avoient peri.*"

La vie du DUMOURIEZ. Tom. 3, p. 176.

plan of operations was propofed by a general of one nation, it was immediately objected to by the leaders of the other.

It was at this period when the allies had withdrawn their few remaining troops from their ill-conducted invafion, and DUMOURIEZ had in his turn overrun the Netherlands, and eftablifhed his head quarters at Aix la Chapelle, that the National Conventien threw down the gauntlet, and bade defiance* to Great Britain.

The firft meafures deemed neceffary was to provide for the immediate defence of our allies the Dutch, threatened by a moft formidable invafion. A part of DUMOURIEZ' army, confifting of about 3,000 difaffected Hollanders, termed the Batavia Legim, and 10,000† French had actually appeared within a few miles of *Breda*, rendering the fituation of the united provinces at that time truly critical, and the conventional general thundered forth moft virulent and threatening manifeftos againft every officer who fhould defend any of the barrier towns befieged, or affift in inundating the country. Three battalions of Britifh guards, amounting to about 1539 *effective* men, were inftantaneoufly ordered to embark under the command of

* On the 1ft of February 1793, *Briffot* read in the convention the report made by the committee of general fafety, relative to the political ftate of FRANCE, refpecting England; and on the fame day *war* was declared againft Great Britain and Holland.

† This, there are ftrong reafons to imagine, was the whole force employed by DUMOURIEZ in his invafion of Holland, though he was faid to have had on foot, an army compofed of 30,000 men.

Such was his policy, that he not only caufed reports to be induftrioufly fpread of immenfe augmentation for his army having paffed through Antwerp, but took alfo efpecial care, that the newfpapers giving accounts of thofe exaggerated numbers, were circulated by means of his fpies and agents, amongft the credulous inhabitants of the united provinces.

the Duke of York, with the utmoſt expedition*. The noble manner in which they puſhed forwards as volunteers, when his Royal Highneſs addreſſed them on the parade in St. James's Park, afforded a ſtriking inſtance of their loyalty, zeal, and courage; and though they formed but a *ſmall body*, their countrymen, contemplated their behaviour with ſatisfaction, as affording a ſample of that national ſpirit, which has been ſo ſtrikingly conſpicuous in all the actions of the Britiſh troops employed upon the continent.

* The royal aſſent was obtained for the embarkation of a detachment from the Brigade of Foot-Guards, about one o'clock on Wedneſday the 20th of February, 1793; and the Duke of York having ordered the ſeven Battalions to parade in St. James's Park, informed them it was his Majeſty's pleaſure, that three Battalions ſhould go upon foreign ſervice, and that conſequently many men would be wanted from the ſecond Batallions to complete the firſt. His Royal Highneſs added, that he did not wiſh to have any of them drafted, but deſired ſuch as were willing to ſerve, under his immediate command, would turn out *volunteers*; the whole Brigade, *to a man*, immediately advanced with a regular ſtep.

A

SKETCH

OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

IN TWO PARTS.

PART I.

IN A

SERIES OF LETTERS,

FROM

AN OFFICER OF THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS ON THE CONTINENT,

TO

A FRIEND

IN

DEVONSHIRE.

A

SKETCH

OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

LETTER I.

At Anchor, off HELVOETSLUYS, *March* 1, 1793.

Containing an Account of the memorable March to Greenwich, and the tedious Voyage to Helvoetſluys.

OF my ſupper, ſo lately in Devonſhire trick'd,
Torn away from my friends, and my pullet half pick'd;
Scarce ſuffer'd to bid them a parting adieu!*
By the help of four horſes to London I flew,
And haſten'd to join the brigade in the park,
Aſſembling tow'rds Greenwich to march, and embark.
Had you witneſs'd the ſcene, you'd have thought, I am ſure,
Of HOGARTH's, this march was a caricature.
Prim'd with WHITBREAD's entire, and their boſom-friend [gin,
By driblets our men join'd their ſquads, to fall in;

* When his Majeſty was reluctantly prevailed upon to give his conſent, that a detachment of the foot guards ſhould be employed for the defence of Holland, the orders for the embarkation of the three firſt battalions, were ſo ſuddenly iſſued, that many officers who had been employed on the recruiting ſervice in the country, with difficulty reached London in time to march with the brigade to Greenwich, on the 25th of February, and others were obliged to follow the tranſports in packets and by boats to Helvoetſluys.

As JOHN BULL to be idle ſoon finds a pretence,
Not GORDON himſelf gather'd crowds ſo immenſe.
In Parliament-ſtreet ſcarce a window was down,
And the mob ruſh'd in throngs from all parts of the town.
All ſmoothly went on in the front of our line,
But the rear, Gods! what pencil has pow'r to define?
Not a ſingle pot-alehouſe eſcap'd an aſſault,
And our men to the dregs drain'd each barrel of malt.
Supported between two battalion-men here,
Hiſſing hot from the bung reel'd a tall grenadier.
Two damſels attending, his armour to bear,
As drunk as the ſtaggering hero, were there;
His croſs belts and pouch the fair Phillida bore,
While his cap Amaryllis triumphantly wore!
Our march interrupted by whiſkeys and gigs,
Mad drivers, mad oxen, and obſtinate pigs;
Men boxing, dogs barking, and women in tears,
Harſh concert that threaten'd the drums of our ears.
Midſt a buſtle, dear RICHARD, beyond all compare,
At length we arriv'd at the Hoſpital-ſquare;
Carts following, to pick up thoſe ſtragglers they found,
Who, unable to move, had repos'd on the ground.
Our Sov'reign, God bleſs him! belov'd and rever'd,
Benignantly ſmiling, amongſt us appear'd.
Around him*, thoſe patterns of excellence ſhone,
Thoſe jewels, that luſtre reflect on his throne.

* The affability and condeſcenſion which at all times ſo peculiarly diſtinguiſh the Royal Family of Great-Britain, were never more conſpicuouſly diſplayed than on this occaſion, and as the battalions paſſed them in review, every ſoldier's countenance became exhilarated. The Queen and Princeſſes who were at Sir HUGH PALLISER'S during the

A grenadier drunk, from the centre rank reel'd,
And hiccuping, up to his Majeſty wheel'd,
"Never mind all theſe Jacobins, G—E, reſt in quiet,
We'll quell them my Hearty! as quick as a riot,"
The King was delighted, and laughed out aloud;
While the fellow was hail'd by three cheers from the crowd.
The tranſports in readineſs waiting in ſight,
Ev'ry ſoldier* was promptly embark'd before night.
Off Greenwich, till morning, at anchor we lay,
Then a breeze ſpringing up, we were ſoon under weight†,
And toſs'd by rude waves for three nights at the Nore,
All grumbling, and all too impatient for ſhore.
Then ſignals were made, and each ſhip hoiſted ſail‡,
With a gathering ſky, and riſing briſk gale.
As our veſſel was ſteadily gliding along,
I ſtole to the ſtern from the noiſy gay throng;
And as the lov'd iſland eſcap'd from my view,
I ſigh'd to thy cliffs, faireſt Albion! adieu!
Adieu, that ſad word brought with force to my mind,
The many dear friends I was leaving behind.
Ah, tell me what buſineſs have ſoldiers to feel?
Our hearts, like our ſwords, ſhould be temper'd with ſteel;

embarkation, waved their handkerchiefs as the boats put off from ſhore; and in return, after repeated hearty huzzas, the men ſtruck up a roaring chorus of God ſave the King, in which they were joined by the Royal Group; this circumſtance was frequently talked over in the ſoldier's tent, and not forgotten in the field of battle.

* Only one accident happened during the embarkation. A private broke his leg in aſcending the ſide of one of the tranſports; and ſuch had been the hurry of the preparations, that not a ſingle medicine cheſt was found on board any one of the veſſels; it was therefore long before the leaſt aſſiſtance could poſſibly be given to the poor fellow. "Somewhere there was a fault."

† Tueſday morning, about 11 o'clock, Feb. 26.

‡ Thurſday evening, Feb. 28.

And the inſtant we're call'd to the blood-beſtain'd field,
Senſibility ſhould to dull apathy yield.
At Aurora's firſt dawn, the near ſhore we perceiv'd,
And in ſight of the tranſports the pilot boats heav'd.
The Dutchmen more active* than commonly thought,
Leap'd on deck, and the harbour we eagerly ſought,
In hopes to have landed; but out of all luck,
Our veſſel full drive on a ſand-bank had ſtruck.
The pilot juſt then ſtuck a pipe in his face,
His hands in his pockets had found a ſnug place;
When the Captain roar'd out, in a voice loud as thunder,
A few gentle curſes at poor Mynheer's blunder.
By a ſhake and a kick he was rous'd from his trance,
And prevail'd on at length to the helm to advance;
But, alas! to no purpoſe, for ſteady as fate,
The tide turning prov'd our exertions too late.
A biſcuit with eaſe could be toſs'd to the ſhore,
And the packets pop in, and pop out, by the ſcore:
Whilſt beating about, tho' releas'd from the ſand,
We're unable as yet to approach near the land.
Our ſtay, as we learn, will at Helvoet be ſhort;
The firſt and the grenadiers, march on to Dort;
The third to the Brielle. Thus were ſtation'd, and when
We arrive, my dear RICHARD, I'll write you again:
A boat that is order'd for meſſes aſhore,
Is detain'd for this letter, aloft ſee each oar;
So I've barely a moment to ſcribble farewell,
Nor half my good wiſhes am able to tell.

* The pilots have a particular knack of boarding a veſſel. Approaching as near as poſſible, they catch at a rope thrown out to them by the ſailors, and ſwing themſelves on deck with great agility, even when the ſea runs high.

LETTER II.

HELVOETSLUYS, *March* 5, 1793.

A joyful Enlargement, or general Gaol Delivery—Remarks on the Zeal displayed by our good and faithful Allies—An Account of the Battle of Nerwinden.

TERRA FIRMA* at length, thank my ſtars! we have gain'd,
And our raptures, believe me, can ſcarce be explain'd.
With more tranſport the breaſt of a debtor ne'er heav'd,
From ſtraw and his fourpence per diem reliev'd,
Than ours when we ſhook all our friends by the hand,
As they joyfully leap'd from the decks on dry land†.
The ſkippers and frows flock'd in crowds to the pier,
And vacantly ſtar'd as the veſſels drew near.
Their zeal in the cauſe they *moſt clearly* diſplay'd,
For each hat was adorn'd with the *Orange Cockade*;
But our faithful Allies! are ſo lukewarm a ſet,
We ſhall live to be heartily tir'd of them yet;
And to judge by the ſneer on his countenance painted,
Mynheer, at the core, with ſedition is tainted:

* The brigade fortunately landed at Helvoetſluys, on Monday, March 4, 1793; the next day violent gales of wind ſprung up, which muſt inevitably have diſperſed the whole fleet of tranſports, and a decided ſtorm enſued, in which they would moſt probably have periſhed.

† This will eaſily be conceived by thoſe who have been in *ſmall tranſports*, in the conſtruction of which, it muſt be allowed, *accommodation* has been but little attended to, thoſe on board of which the firſt detachment from the brigade of guards was embarked, were peculiarly uncomfortable; *the men* were ſtowed in the holds in ſuch numbers, that *one third* of them were conſtantly obliged to keep on deck of nights, to afford the others ſpace ſufficient to breathe in freely; and *the officers* (though their ſituation is by no means of ſo much conſequence, as they can command a thouſand little comforts beyond the reach of the private ſoldier) had only one ſmall cabbin in each veſſel amongſt about ſeven of them, on the floor of which they lay every night in their clothes cloſely wedged together.

The numbers of ſhips* we find *ſnug* in dry dock,
The feelings of true hearted Britons muſt ſhock;
For their treach'ry you'll grant me appears rather rank,
When *our Tars* own they fought, off the fam'd Dogger-
bank.
Breda and Gertruydenberg both are poſſeſt
By the French, and they Williamſtadt cloſely inveſt;
But BOETSLAAR will keep his gates barr'd to the laſt,
And quick tho' they fire, will return it as faſt;
DUMOURIEZ, his canvaſs, depend on't muſt ſtrike,
And move in quick time from his poſt at Moordyke†.

* After hoſtilities had commenced avowedly to protect our Allies the Dutch, we naturally expected to have found them zealous and hearty in the cauſe; but when the guards landed at Helvoetſluys, had it not been for the roaring of artillery, which was diſtinctly heard while Williamſtadt was bombarded, a ſtranger muſt naturally have ſuppoſed, from the lethargic ſlumbers in which the inhabitants appeared to have been plunged, that they were enjoying a profound peace. In the dock-yard, which was filled with all kinds of naval ſtores, and veſſels of various deſcriptions, ſeveral ſhips of war, ſeven of them carrying 74 guns each, were laid up without the leaſt preparation appearing to equip them for ſervice; on the contrary, there were ſcarcely ever ſeen in the yard, more men than were abſolutely neceſſary to keep watch over the ſtores, and now and then a few builders at work, when a merchantman occaſionally put in to repair. The inhabitants apathetically replied, to the queſtions put to them relative to the ſhips of war, that they were laid up in a dock, becauſe they could not procure ſailors to man them.

If we look back to that period, when they were at war with, and fought us ſo obſtinately, we perceive them uniformly making the greateſt exertions, in expeditiouſly fitting out the moſt formidable fleets; and it was obvious, that their *inertion* proceeded in the preſent inſtance entirely from their averſion to the cauſe. This opinion is not drawn from what paſſed in a town, ſo apparently inſignificant as Helvoetſluys; but from repeated examples of the ſame diſaffection being equally prevalent through the whole of the United Provinces. Amſterdam abounded in *Patriots* (as thoſe men inimical to the Orange Family were called) Rotterdam had its ſhare, Dort was over-run with them, and ſcarcely a ſingle town was totally exempt.

†DUMOURIEZ was ſtationed at the Moordyke, having fixed upon that as the moſt centrical ſituation, while he carried on his different opera-

This great little hero! has ſurely atchiev'd
Such wonderful feats as can ſcarce be believ'd.
Yet we've toſs'd him a hard bitter cruſt now to mumble,
And you'll find from his ſaddle he'll ſpeedily tumble.
Our ſtate of defence here appears very fair,
And the fortification's in decent repair.
Frigates moor'd near the town guard the port, and no doubt
Will ſoon make his Sans Culotte Friends face about,

tions.—As well as Breda and Gertruydenburg, the ſmall fort of Klundert had fallen into his hands, the poſſeſſion of which enabled him to open batteries immediately upon Williamſtadt, a place of no great ſtrength, if we ſpeak of its works, but capable of making a reſpectable defence, as it is acceſſible only on the ſide of Klundert, being protected by the river Maes towards Dort, Rotterdam, and Bergenopzoom. The mouth of the Scheldt was well guarded, and the Dutch were therefore enabled to relieve their men at pleaſure, to throw in ſuccours, and to annoy the beſiegers by means of gun-boats, whenever they attempted to make their approaches; while the tremendous fire kept up inceſſantly from the ramparts of the place, convinced the Hero of Jémappe, that he would not experience the ſame minute attention to his manifeſtos from the Governor of Williamſtadt, as he had before met with from thoſe of Breda and Gertruydenberg.

Dumouriez's ſcheme of penetrating into Holland by the Moordyke, was certainly well planned; and had *Valence*, who was privy to his intended operations, kept his poſition on *the Roer*, inſtead of indulging in winter quarters at Liege, when he might have expected the Auſtrians would attempt the paſſage of the river, it might poſſibly have ſucceeded. Dumouriez held out to the Convention, he tells us, in his Memoirs, that his intention was to make an attempt upon *Zeeland*, while his real determination was to advance with a body of troops poſted at *Moordyke*, and *maſking* Breda and Gertruydenberg *on the right*, and Bergenopzoom, Steenberg, Klundert, and Williamstadt *on the left*, effect a paſſage over the Bies Bos to Dort, where being once diſembarked, he would have found himſelf in the *very heart* of Holland, and could eaſily have advanced to Amsterdam, by the way of Rotterdam, Delft, Leyden, and *Haarlem*; and then proceeding by *Utrecht*, could have reached Nimeguen, where Valence, with a force conſiſting of 20,000 men, was to have joined him, while Miranda continued the ſieges of Maestricht and of Venlo.

If they dare to approach, but too crafty for that,
The Carmagnols know where to ſmell out a rat.
This moment our route has, I find, been receiv'd,
And to packing I haſte, as to night we're reliev'd *.
In Schuyts we ſhall punt up to Dort; mes adieus,
Then acceps, and when landed, my theme I'll renew.

As the *reconqueſt* of the Netherlands, the delivery of Holland, and in fact as all the brilliant ſucceſſes that crowned the arms of the allies at the commencement of the campaign of 1793, were in a great meaſure in conſequence of the victory gained by Prince COBOURG at *Nerwinden*, it ſeems abſolutely neceſſary to give ſome account of the operations which brought on that general and deciſive engagement, before the fruitleſs endeavours of the beſieging army to reduce Williamſtadt are further noticed.

CLAIRFAIT had advanced from his cantonments on the night of the 28th of February, and paſſing the *Roer* on the 29th, took poſſeſſion of *Aldenhoven*: on the 2d of March he repulſed the French army, under the command

* Part of the 3d regiment from the Brielle relieved by the Coldſtream at Helvoet at midnight, on the 5th of March, when the latter proceeded in ſchuyts, (veſſels ſomewhat ſimilar to the Engliſh coal barges, or weſt country boats, in which troops and baggage are uſually conveyed through Holland with much expedition, as when the wind does not permit them to ſail they can be towed by horſes) to join the main body of the guards under Major General LAKE at the iſland of Dortreicht, where it was apprehended the enemy might attempt a landing, as the inhabitants were known to be extremely opulent, and had the character of befriending the French ſyſtem. The States General had an army on foot amounting to about 30,000 men, compoſed of Germans and Swiſs, in their pay, as well as of native troops, and Prince FREDERICK of Brunſwick was expected to advance from his poſition behind the Maes with 10,000 to co-operate with them.

of Gen. MIRANDA, at *Geylenkirchen*, between JULIERS and MAESTRICHT. This bufinefs, which lafted only a few hours, was attended with the moft brilliant fuccefs on the fide of the Auftrians. The French are ftated to have loft in killed, wounded, and miffing, above 2,000 men, 12 pieces of cannon, and feveral ammunition waggons. A complete victory was alfo gained on the following day, near Aix la Chappelle, by Prince COBOURG, over the grand Republican army under Gen. VALENCE, which was driven back upon Liege with confiderable flaughter; above 1,500 prifoners, and 20 pieces of cannon, fell into the hands of the conquerors, while Prince FREDERICK of Brunfwick, the fame day, carried the formidable batteries conftructed at *Zwalme* on the *Meufe*; purfuing the enemy to Brugge, he took 700 prifoners, and advanced towards *Ruremonde*, which place was alfo given up upon his firft appearance before it, its fall, enabling him to pufh forwards towards Bois le Duc. Thus glorioufly was opened the campaign of 1793, on the fide of the allies in every direction, and almoft precifely at the fame moment. Maeftricht and Venlo had been bombarded feverely for ten days, and both places were fortunately relieved by the rapid advance of Prince COBOURG, and by his vigorous attacks upon the covering armies.

The details of thefe events, given in the National Convention at that period, were extremely curious, and are well worthy of being noticed, though indeed it was then their common practice to point out their defeats to the nation through the fmall end of the telefcope, which they reverfed with a juggler's celerity, to magnify every trifling advantage gained by the republic, into a decifive victory.

In the ſitting of March 5, a letter from the Belgic *commiſſioners*, dated the 3d, at Liege, was read, ſtating that Gen. VALENCE, finding the van of his army too cloſely preſſed by the allies, had thought it prudent, as many of his *officers* were abſent, to evacuate Aix la Chappelle, and to entrench himſelf at Herve; not a word was then ſaid of the loſs he had ſuſtained, nor was any engagement mentioned to have taken place. BOURNONVILLE, the war miniſter, in a haſty note to the preſident, ſtated the affair to be of little conſequence, and Miranda to have only ſuſpended the Bombardment of MAESTRICHT. On the following day, however, it was thought prudent to touch ſlightly upon the bad news that muſt have been very ſoon in circulation, and St. ANDRE obſerved that the committee of general ſafety had obtained intelligence from Belgia of *rather* an unpleaſant nature. *Carra*, another member, immediately attributed it to treachery, and Gen. STENGEL, a German, in their ſervice, who commanded the avant garde of VALENCE's army, was denounced; but even then BOURNONVILLE declared that he had received intelligence from DUMOURIEZ, that the French had not loſt, in the retreat from Aix la Chappelle, above 5 or 6 men.

On the 4th of March, Prince COBOURG again advanced upon VALENCE, and after driving him from his entrenchments at Herve, took Liege, with ſcarce any loſs, puſhing his advanced poſts ſome miles beyond that place, as he met with ſcarce any reſiſtance. Theſe affairs, however, can only be regarded as ſkirmiſhes, previous to the general engagement, which, as might naturally have been expected from the proximity of the hoſtile armies, ſoon after took place. The forces of Generals VALENCE and MI-

RANDA had been consolidated, and DUMOURIEZ placed himself at their head, mustering, according to his own statements, only 42,000 men. The Imperialists under Prince COBOURG and Gen. CLAIRFAIT, were said to have been about 50,000 strong; but it was generally imagined, that the disparity was much greater than the French General thus makes it out, and with this difference, that the Republicans had the advantage in point of numbers; for DUMOURIEZ's army was always reckoned by *the Austrians* to have been composed of 70,000 effective men *at least*.

CLAIRFAIT made himself master of Tirelemont on the 15th of March, and the following day the van of his army fell in with a considerable body of the enemy near that place; an engagement ensued, in which the Austrians received a serious check, and were obliged to fall back with some loss; the 17th was a day of rest, and passed in reconnoitering on both sides; but early on the morning of the 18th, the memorable action of Nerwinden took place. The attack was made by the French, after they had effected the passage of the river Gette with their usual impetuosity, and sustained by the Austrians with their usual firmness. Victory for a long time hovered over the field doubtful on which side to settle. DUMOURIEZ had stationed his army in a very advantageous position; and placing himself at the head of his right wing, completely succeeded in turning Prince COBOURG's* left. His troops however being unsteady, he was unable to fol-

* The ground occupied by the Imperialists, (between Fongus, St. Tron, and Landen) resembled an Amphitheatre, rising from the river Gette to the heights of Landen and St. Tron.

low up the advantage thus gained; and the Auſtrian Cavalry, forming a Corps de Reſerve under Gen. CLAIRFAIT, coming up in the evening, decided the fortune of the day. The French were panic ſtruck, and retreated precipitately in every direction, abandoning 30 pieces of cannon, and leaving immenſe heaps of their men dead upon the field of battle.

Gen. MIRANDA, who commanded the left wing of DUMOURIEZ's army, appears to have been deceived at the firſt onſet, by a feint retreat of the Auſtrian right, which ſuddenly rallied, and attacking him with vigour, obliged him to fall back in the utmoſt confuſion. The centre and right, animated by the preſence of DUMOURIEZ, continued firm till the evening, when, upon CLAIRFAIT's advancing, they followed the example of the left wing, and were purſued and cut up ſeverely by the Auſtrian Huſſars.

This victory however coſt the Imperialiſts above 1200 men at the commencement of the engagement, which was very unfavourable to them. Various ſtatements have been given of the loſs of the Republicans, differing ſo widely as from 2000 to 6000 in killed; but their loſſes cannot poſſibly be exactly aſcertained, as no General was ever yet known to have the dead bodies counted after an engagement, and the French at all times carefully conceal the numbers that fall on their ſide. Freſh *Volunteers*, forcibly taken from trimming their vines, are ſent to fill up gaps, or, in their own words, to re-organize their armies; the military bands receive them with *ça ira*, and they are taught by their comrades to dance away care and reflection to the tune of the *Carmagnol*. Intoxicated before an engagement; with liberty in their mouths, and the

fumes of geneva in their heads, they ruſh on to deſtruction, while the beſt troops are carefully kept in the rear, and brought up after theſe enthuſiaſtic drunkards have repeatedly annoyed their opponents, and fatigued themſelves by their impetuous and reiterated attacks.

The battle of Nerwinden however laſted from daybreak till ſix o'clock in the evening, and as every inch of ground was obſtinately diſputed, it is evident that much blood muſt have been ſpilt *on both ſides*. DUMOURIEZ retreated towards Louvain, and on the 22d, CLAIRFAIT made another attack upon his army, when an obſtinate engagement took place at *Neerwelpe*, and the French General was again defeated, though his men fought deſperately, and made ſuch vigorous efforts to retain their poſition, that the victory was purchaſed *dearly* by the Auſtrians, who had 700 men killed upon the ſpot. The Republicans then retreated behind the river Dyle, and took poſt on the formidable *Montagne de Fer*, between Louvain and Bruſſels, whence they alſo were ſpeedily driven, being diſpirited and unable to make any further reſiſtance. They ſoon after precipitately abandoned Bruſſels, which place Prince COBOURG immediately entered, to the great joy of the inhabitants, as they had been pillaged and dreadfully treated by their Republican Maſters, who then retired to Halle, evacuating Antwerp, Malines, Mons, and what was of infinite advantage to the Britiſh forces, OSTEND, filing off in two diviſions towards *Ath*; where DUMOURIEZ collected the remains of his ſhattered army, fixing his head-quarters at Tournay.

DUMOURIEZ, in his Memoirs, gives us a long detailed account of the battle of Nerwinden, tending to prove his

own manœuvres to have been excellent, and attributing his defeat to the treachery and cowardice of MIRANDA*. That General, he avers, through a perſonal pique to VALENCE†, drew off his two columns, forming the left wing of the grand army, two leagues diſtant from the ſcene of action, expoſing the right and centre to the whole weight of the Imperialiſts. He alſo accuſes the Auſtrian Generals of having committed ſome egregious errors‡; but though an able General, DUMOURIEZ is a determined *Egotiſt*, and all his accounts are given in the gaſconading ſtyle of his countrymen in the *Senate*.

It appears, however, that he had the addreſs to enter into engagements with Col. MACK, ſtipulating that his army ſhould be permitted to retreat without further moleſtation after the evacuation of Bruſſels; this was unknown to CLAIRFAIT, who fell upon his avant-garde poſted at Pellenberg, which brought on the action at Nerwelpe. They were however afterwards faithfully at-

* DUMOURIEZ appears particularly inveterate againſt MIRANDA, and evinces in his Memoirs, a diſpoſition to throw every poſſible odium upon that General. Yet MIRANDA certainly proved himſelf either extremely eloquent, or guarded by the impenetrable breaſt-plate of conſcious innocence, when he was acquitted by the *Revolutionary Tribunal at* PARIS.

† VALENCE, it muſt be remembered, was DUMOURIEZ's particular friend.

‡ In not diſputing the paſſage of the river *Gette*, which divided the two armies, in not falling upon the three columns, forming the right wing under VALENCE, both in front and flank, while marching to the attack; in abandoning the advantageous poſt of the tomb of *Middlewinden* (which commanded the three villages Oberwinden, Middlewinden, and Nerwinden, as well as a valley ſeparating them from the town of *Landen*) in having neglected to erect a battery upon it previous to the engagement; and *above all*, in not purſuing MIRANDA in his flight, and in not attacking with their right wing the left and centre of the Republicans then engaged in the heat of the battle before NERWINDEN.

tended to by Prince COBOURG, who remained three days at Louvain, ſending only ſmall detachments to hang upon the rear of the Republicans.

How an experienced officer, like Col. MACK, could have entered into ſo abſurd a treaty* with a diſpirited and beaten enemy, is difficult to account for. Had his intelligence been good reſpecting the ſituation of DUMOURIEZ's forces, he muſt have been convinced of the practicability of COBOURG's army cutting off their retreat, and preventing their return to the Frontiers of France; but thus it ever is, too much elated with victory, the greateſt Generals are apt to neglect following up the advantages they gain, at the critical moment, when they might render them deciſive and brilliant.

* DUMOURIEZ, in his Memoirs, ſtates this ſtipulation to have become hourly of more importance to him. His army, he ſays, was greatly diminiſhed, eſpecially in *officers*. He had ſcarcely ammunition ſufficient for a ſingle battle, and he was moreover thoroughly perſuaded, that in caſe of a ſerious attack, he ſhould have been abandoned by his whole army.

LETTER III.

DORT, *March* 23, 1793.

Boetslaar's spirited Defence of Williamstadt.—The French raise the Siege precipitately, and abandon their Expedition against Holland entirely.

TO our enemies now, we've drawn rapidly near,
And should Williamstadt fall, they'll soon visit us here.
As yet the brave garrison holds them at bay,
And must force them, crest fall'n, to sneak tamely away.
Their reception was warm, as they well might expect,
And our gun-boats have all had the wish'd-for effect.
An unfortunate shot, sorrow dictates the lay,
In an instant, each semblance of life tore away,
From a gallant young tar*! yet so nobly to die,
Takes the sting from affliction, and softens its sigh;
While the fire from the ramparts † De Flers has annoy'd,
Not a house in the place, as we're told, is destroy'd.

* The additional gun-boats which had been built at Rotterdam were dispatched to join Admiral KINSBERGEN's fleet, and half of them mounting British colours, were manned by English sailors under the command of Capt. BARCKLEY. These boats were constantly employed, and had all the effect that could have been possibly expected from them, by preventing the besiegers from making any very near approaches. The British tars had on that duty many opportunities of evincing that undaunted courage, for which they have ever been so deservedly famed. His countrymen had to lament the loss of a very valuable and spirited officer in Lieut. WESTERN of the *Syren* Frigate who fell on the 21st of March; he was shot through the heart by a cannon-ball, whilst in the act of pointing the gun of his boat against the enemy's works.

† Before DUMOURIEZ left the Republican army in Holland, to put himself at the head of that of the North, then stationed near LOUVAIN, he

Our arrival by Boetslaar was duly announc'd*,
And the French may expect to be handsomely trounc'd.
Rous'd of late from our mess by a brisk cannonade,
(As it seem'd to our young inexperienc'd brigade,)
We, turning out manfully, thought to have found
The foe with our picquets, disputing the ground.
But perceiv'd it was linseed some oil mills had pounded,
Till the harsh noise produc'd, loud as cannon resounded.

made a very desperate attempt to enter Williamstadt by a *Coup de Main*, and taking advantage of a dark night, advanced silently along the Dyke with a large body of chosen troops. This detachment however, being fortunately discovered by the frigates stationed in the *Maes*, they suffered them to approach within reach of their guns, and then commenced a brisk and tremendous fire with grape shot; and the artillery from the ramparts of the place opening upon them at the same moment, the Republicans were driven back with considerable slaughter. It has been already stated that Williamstadt was alone assailable by a narrow neck of land near Klundert; there, the besiegers attempted to erect two batteries within 200 toises of the place; but the garrison perceiving their intention made a vigorous sortie, and destroying the works before they were completed, killed the two engineers employed to construct them, and pursued their enemies, who fled upon their first approach, driving them beyond their former position. Being foiled in these attempts, and called upon loudly to repair to the army of Valence, Dumouriez left Gen. De Flers with the command of the French army in Holland; directing him to continue the siege, and, if possible, to effect a landing on the island of *Dort*; determined to prosecute his darling enterprise, if successful in checking the formidable progress of the Imperialists.

* Strong picquets were posted along the shore of the island of Dort, whence frequent supplies of ammunition were conveyed to Williamstadt by a party of the guards, as a communication by the Scheldt was preserved. The Dutch uniform being *Blue lined with Scarlet*, Gen. Boetslaar, soon after the arrival of the British troops, ordered his garrison to turn their coats inside out, and to put their accoutrements over them. Thus equipped they were paraded on the ramparts with the party of the guards in front, and within sight of the besiegers. By this stratagem the enemy imagined rhe Governor had received a reinforcement of English soldiers, and it was said at the time that it accelerated the retreat of the besiegers.

You'll laugh at our blunder, and laugh if you will,
We shall know, in good time, a French gun from a mill.
A Williamstadt courier reports the siege* rais'd,
And BOETSLAAR most highly and justly is prais'd;
His defence must the veteran endear to mankind,
Nor his country ungrateful to merit we find;

* The States General decreed a very handsome pension to General BOETSLAAR and his family, for his gallant and spirited defence of Williamstadt.

Prince FREDERICK of BRUNSWICK having at this period reached the vicinity of Bois le Duc, the situation of the French became extremely critical; Gen. DE FLERS therefore on the 23d of March ordered *Berneron* who commanded the army besieging Williamstadt to raise the siege, and to retreat towards ANTWERP, throwing himself, with about 5,000 men, into BREDA, while Col. *Tilli* entered *Gertruydenberg* with about half the number of infantry, and a small detachment of horse. Thus ended the invasion of Holland, wherein the Republicans must have suffered very severely, though *Dumouriez* had the *impudence* to assert in his Memoirs, that the expedition did not cost France *a single soldier*. Without he means to be understood as speaking contemptuously of his army, and wishes us to infer from his remarks, that it was composed of men unworthy of that honourable name; he has certainly committed himself most strangely, for the beach under the walls of Williamstadt was strewed with the bodies of Frenchmen who had fallen before the place, and the writer of this narrative *himself saw* numbers of them laying there after the siege had been raised, before the Dutch had leisure to inter them. We may *fairly* venture to state his loss at 1000 men *killed*.

The French batteries at Moordyke were evacuated without loss, as the Dutch troops were not aware of the very precipitate retreat of their enemies: preparations were then immediately made by the hereditary Prince of ORANGE, to reoccupy the fortresses of Gertruydenberg and Breda, when Gen. DE FLERS, offering to surrender upon terms, was permitted to march out with the honours of war, and return to the interior of France, giving up *the Batavians*, composing a part of his garrison, as prisoners of war. BREDA was evacuated on the 22d of April, the last place the enemy possessed in Holland, Gertruydenberg having previously surrendered upon the same terms. The 3d Regiment of Guards was relieved by the 14th Regiment of Infantry, which had been sent to encrease the British forces in Holland, and the whole brigade, excepting three companies of the 3d Regiment, embarked in *Schuyts* the

For our fpeedy advance preparations are made,
And the third has been order'd to join the brigade.
As it's long fince the troops to relieve them fet fail,
Of their landing to hear, we expect ev'ry mail.
That I'm your's moft fincerely, dear RICHARD, believe;
And from Devon, good news may I fhortly receive.

1ft of April, and landed the fame day at Bergenopzoom, and the divifion left at Dort, having been relieved by a Swifs Regiment in the pay of Holland, followed on the 7th.

Victory appeared, at this period, to heap her Favors with a lavifh hand on the coalefced armies in every direction. The Pruffians had fucceeded in paffing the Rhine near Oppenheim on the 27th of March, though oppofed by *Cuftine*, who had advanced with a corps of 12,000 men, for that purpofe. Oppenheim, Worms, and Spires, fell rapidly into their hands, and Gen. WURMSUR, with 12,000 Auftrians, having effected the paffage of the river at Carlrich, and repulfed a body of the enemy of nearly equal ftrength on the oppofite fide, pufhed on to form the inveftiture of LANDAU, while Prince HOHENLOE, after repeated fkirmifhes, in which he was invariably fuccefsful, furrounded Mayence, (or Mentz) with 30,000 men, forming a befieging army under COUNT KALRUITH. It was at this time generally underftood that a large army of Ruffians would be fent to co-operate with the allies, but the Emprefs, as well as his Majefty of Pruffia, being wholly intent on the participation of Poland, paid but little attention to the *common caufe*, and though FREDERICK was frequently feen at the Pruffian head-quarters, it was evident he thought much more of *Kofkioufki* than of CUSTINE, or more fpirited meafures would undoubtedly have been adopted to have chafed the Republicans beyond their lines, at a moment when they were fo difpirited by a feries of defeats in every quarter.

Though CUSTINE had taken up fome very advantageous pofitions, having poffeffion of the heights of Weiffemberg, and the formidable lines which extending from thence to Lautenberg, protected Hageneau, and Strafbourg, and had alfo pofted HOUCHARD with 10,000 men, fo as to cover the duchy of *Deux Ponts*; he was certainly apprehenfive of the event in cafe of an attack, as he wrote to the convention, requefting permiffion to refign his command, and ftating his army to have been fo much reduced, that out of 50,000 men he had brought into the field at the commencement of the campaign, only 36,000 then remained to oppofe above 80,000 of the allies. The French general was however certainly mifinformed of the ftrength of the allied armies on the Rhine, they never mufter'd in their moft formidable ftate, above 90,000 men, of which number 30,000 were furnifhed by Auftria, and 4,000 by the Prince of Heffe Darmftadt; deducting therefore the troops invefting Mayence, and thofe deftined for the fiege of Landau, there could not poffibly remain *above* 48,000 to contend with CUSTINE.

LETTER IV.

Dumouriez' flight.—Determination of the Congress at Antwerp.—Advance to Flanders. Cobourg's Manifestos.—Renewal of Hostilities.—Position of the Allies.—Attacks of the 1st and 2d May.—Their Consequences.

YOUR opinion, dear RICHARD, *veer'd widely* from mine,
When you said that our views we should scarcely confine,
Our *valiant* and *faithful* ALLIES to defend;
But to judgment *superior*, submissive I bend.
To his strong camp at Maulde *, when DUMOURIEZ had fled,
And found that the Jacobins threaten'd his head;

* Upon DUMOURIEZ retreating from the neighbourhood of Tournay on the 30th of March to the camp of Maulde near St. Amand, avowedly one of the strongest positions in Flanders, Prince COBOURG advanced his head-quarters to Mons; the French army of the north was then so much decreased, that till joined by the late garrisons of Breda and Gertruydenberg (exclusive of the garrisons of Valenciennes, Condé, Maubeuge, &c.), it barely amounted to 8,000 men. That formidable position could however have been easily defended, even by so trifling a force against any numbers likely to have been brought against it. Commissioners from the convention, had frequently made their appearance in the camp, and DUMOURIEZ plainly perceived that his arrest had been a measure decided upon from the moment of his defeat at Nerwinden, and aware that denunciation was become, by the order of the day, the forerunner and certain road to the guillotine, he determined to disappoint the hopes of his enemies, and to march his whole army to Paris to overturn the Jacobin faction.

Though his treachery against the republic cannot possibly be denied, when we allow him to have entered into engagements to deliver Lille and Valenciennes into the hands of Prince COBOURG, it must be evident to every unprejudiced man, who considers the subject; that the ingratitude, of his countrymen was the first and chief reason of his deserting their cause: Self defence being certainly admitted as the first principle of nature, for even

The worm, when trod upon, erects its crest,
And in defiance curls its stingless tail.

Had DUMOURIEZ arrived at the *pinnacle* of the revolution, as his countrymen gasconadingly term it, to have sustained the character of a Re-

The convention declaring how charm'd they ſhould be,
If he'd march with their deputies back *a Paris.*
This ſharp-ſighted hero for ſome nights had ſeen
In his dreams, a tremendous and bloody machine,
And ſtarted, exclaiming aloud, " *Guillotine.*"
So he ſent the commiſſioners* under arreſt,
To the Auſtrian encampment, and ſtood forth confeſs'd,
A friend to their cauſe, undertaking to bring
His army to publiſh young LOUIS their king:

publican hero, he ought willingly to have devoted himſelf to death, rather than have betrayed the truſt repoſed in him by the convention; conſidering him however as a *mere man*, and one too who from principle was averſe to the ruling faction at Paris, we cannot wonder when he perceived 200,000 ſwords ready to be drawn in his defence, that he ſhould not only take meaſures to preſerve his own life, but to puniſh thoſe ſanguinary wretches who were ſo eagerly thirſting for his blood. His plan failing in the firſt inſtance when he endeavoured to gain over FERRAND, the Governor of Valenciennes, to his ſide, he meant to have taken poſſeſſion of Condé, well aſſured that *Nuillie* the commandant, was in his intereſt; while the Auſtrians blockaded Lille and Valenciennes, and depending upon the unanimity of his army, to proceed immediately to the capital, in conjunction with Prince COBOURG.

* The eyes of all Europe were fixed upon DUMOURIEZ with awful expectation at *that* moment, as it was naturally imagined that the influence of ſo favourite a general over his ſoldiers would have induced them to adopt any meaſures he might propoſe, however deſperate, rather than ſtand by, and tamely ſuffer him to be dragged from before their eyes to the ſcaffold, after having ſo frequently led them on to victory. In the mean time CAMUS, LA MARQUE, CUNETTE, and HENRI VEAUVEL, with BOURNONVILLE the war miniſter, were deputed by the jacobins to conduct the French general in chief to the bar of the convention, with orders, as it was ſaid, to have him aſſaſſinated in caſe of reſiſtance, for which purpoſe troops were placed in the road by which he was to paſs to Paris. Having long foreſeen this event, he was fully prepared in what manner to act, and upon their attempting to ſecure his perſon, and place their ſeals upon his papers, he order'd 50 choſen Huſſars, whom he had previouſly poſted within call, to eſcort them to Tournay, and to deliver them immediately into the hands of Gen. CLAIRFAIT.

And inſtantly mounting the modeſt cockade,
The pow'r of his rhet'rick* the champion eſſay'd.

* Dumouriez' plan now became ripe for execution, and having appointed a meeting with Colonel Mack, for finally determining upon the terms of their treaty; on the 3d of April he addreſſed his army at the *camp of Maulde*, and *then* found that they highly approved of his having arreſted the commiſſioners, and that they even evinced a diſpoſition favourble to his wiſhes, and ſuch as induced him to imagine they would follow, wherever he led the way. On the 4th however when he was proceeding to Condé for the ſame purpoſe, he fell in with a columnof his own troops marching *thence* from *Valenciennes*, and ſurpriſed at this unexpected movement for which he had given no orders, he advanced to queſtion them but perceiving the ſoldiers at the head of the column approaching with threatening language, he inſtantly gallopped, with wonderful preſence of mind, towards a broad ditch, over which, his charger refuſing to leap, he was obliged to ſcramble on foot, and mounting a horſe belonging to a ſervant of the *Duc de Chartres*, who had attended him, very narrowly eſcaped with his life through a briſk fire of ſmall arms, which, in their purſuit, the French troops kept up, inceſſantly, till he croſſed a branch of the river Scheldt, and gained a village in poſſeſſion of the Auſtrians.

He returned, however, the next day, to the camp at Maulde, and was received with *apparent joy* by his troops; unfortunately for Dumouriez Prince Cobourg's firſt declaration was then publiſhed, ſtating his intentions to co-operate with the French general, and to aſſiſt him, if neceſſary, with his *whole army*, to reſtore to France the happineſs of a conſtitution, and to the reſt of Europe, peace and tranquillity. I further declare, adds the Imperial General, upon my word and honor, that ſhould the military operations require one or more fortreſſes to be given up to my troops, I will keep them merely as a ſacred truſt, and I engage, in the moſt expreſs and poſitive terms, to reſtore them, as ſoon as a government ſhall be eſtabliſhed in France, or the brave general, with whom I am about to make a common cauſe, ſhall demand of me ſuch a conceſſion. This declaration was ſigned at Mons, on the 5th of April, and upon its appearance in the camp of Maulde, the cannoneers began to murmur, and ſoon after *drew off their guns* towards Valenciennes, the national volunteers following their example, branded their general with the name of traitor to his country, and the whole camp was thrown into confuſion. it therefore became abſolutely neceſſary for Dumouriez to attend to his immediate ſafety, and, accompanied alone by Generals Thouvenot, Valence, the Duc de Chartres, and the officers of his ſtaff he ſought a ſhelter from the rage of his former idolaters in Clairfait's head quarters at Tournay. Such were the cauſes of, and the circumſtances attending the French

To his florid narration the anſwer receiv'd
Was, " Vive DUMOURIEZ!" Sounds he fondly believ'd,
To have ſprang from the heart, yet, too ſoon to his coſt,
Experienc'd his influence was totally loſt.
And perceiving them eager his life to obtain,
Without looking back he ſcower'd over the plain.
A congreſs at Antwerp * then met, which decreed,
Fair Belgium to conquer our troops ſhould proceed,
And offenſively act as occaſion requir'd;
Ev'ry boſom, believe me, with ardour was fir'd,
Which before with ſuſpenſe and uncertainty pain'd,
Truly anxious at Bergenopzoom had remain'd.

general's flight: the philanthropiſt, when he conſiders the effuſion of human blood that has ſince deluged the earth, and which would have been undoubtedly ſpared, had DUMOURIEZ' plan ſucceeded, will lament its failure, while he deteſts his treachey, and the true patriot muſt naturally wiſh that it had never been attempted, as it aſſiſted the diabolical ſchemes of the rulers of the convention, and the people of France became from that moment more united and more bigotted to their new principles.

* The advantages that had been gained by the allies in one ſhort month exceeded their moſt ſanguine expectations. Having driven their enemies within their own territories, it was determined that a congreſs ſhould be held at Antwerp on the 8th of April, to fix upon new arrangements for the future operations of the campaign, and the generals and miniſters of the coaleſced powers were accordingly ſummoned to attend it. It was there reſolved that vigorous meaſures ſhould be entered into by every power at war with France, that the garriſon towns on the frontiers ſhould be immediately beſieged, and, in caſe of their ſurrender, that the conventional forces ſhould be blocked up cloſely by a ſtrong cordon of troops on ſhore, while the maritime powers ſhould extend their line, and cut off from the country all ſupplies by ſea. Thus hemmed in *on every ſide*, the Royaliſts, in the heart of the kingdom were to fight their own battles, and the allied armies to ſupport them as favourable opportunities might offer. Great Britain and her auxiliaries by this treaty conſented to advance and join with Auſtria in her offenſive operations.

A place of ſuch ſtrength*, that like Troy it appears;
Full able a ſiege to ſuſtain of ten years.
Tow'rds Antwerp† we then in the ſchuyts bent our way,
And ſafely were landed at Bev'ren next day;
Where halting three days we all joyouſly went
To pay our devoirs to the good folks‡ at Ghent.
Receiv'd, by the premier nobleſſe of the place,
With joy, and a hearty fraternal embrace;

* Bergenopzoom is the compleateſt regularly fortified town in Europe. There are caſemates ſufficient to lodge nearly 20,000 men, which having a ſandy foundation, are very dry and healthy. The mines are bricked over and interſect in every direction, branching from the chamber, entirely under the glacis. The magazines for ammunition and proviſions are alſo acknowledged to be *ſuperior* to, and more extenſive than thoſe of any other known fortreſs in Europe; neither can any place in Holland (Nimeguen excepted) boaſt of the advantage of ſuch excellent water, or of ſuch an abundant ſupply. By its numerous ſubterraneous works, which in circumference are ſaid to cover nearly a league (3 Engliſh miles) of ground, it is rendered impregnable, and while the Scheldt is open, ſuccour can be thrown in, if neceſſary, every tide. It was taken by treachery in the year 1747, when the French entered the place, after one of the ſally-port doors *had been opened* to them. Two battalions of the Scotch brigade, ſupported by a *ſingle* battalion of Dutch; (the reſt of the garriſon having fled precipitately) maintained their ground in the market-place and ſtreets, for nearly four hours, againſt above 10,000 of their enemies; and after making conſiderable ſlaughter, effected their retreat by the Stenburgh port, leaving behind them the greateſt part of their officers, and above two thirds of their men killed and wounded. They joined the Dutch army that lay behind the lines contiguous to the fortreſs, *where* 13,000 *men* were then encamped, whom *they naturally expected* would have marched to their aſſiſtance. There is a ſtrong fort at the entrance of the harbour, which was maintained by the late Gen. M'Lean, (then a Lieut. in the Scotch brigade,) and 30 of his brave countrymen, till he had obtained terms to march out with the honours of war, and was permitted to join his regiment which had juſt fought its way out of the town.

† The brigade left Bergenopzoom the 9th, and landed at Beveren, a ſmall village oppoſite Antwerp, the 10th of April.

‡ Marched from Beveren the 13th, and arrived at Ghent the 14th.

We too ſoon bade ſuch friends an unwilling adieu,
In ſearch of adventures our route to purſue
Tow'rds Bruge*, and their raptures we found were
no leſs;
For our *Chieftain* they hail'd with a printed addreſs,
Declaring how honour'd the city had been,
How greatly rejoic'd in its walls to have ſeen
A Brunſwick, and ſomething was handſomely ſaid
Of his valiant attendants in dark blue and red:
The bells in the ſteeple rang merrily round!
And the chimes ſtruck our ears with the heart-cheering
ſound
Of GOD SAVE THE KING!
Theſe teeth outward Loyaliſts kept us one day,
Then we march'd on to Tournay†, through Thielt and
Courtray;

* Embarked for Bruges the 16th, and landed there the 17th of April.

† Marched from Bruges to Thielt the 19th of April; to Courtray the 20th; to Tournay the 23d; to Orcq, near Tournay the 25th.

A ſecond declaration of Prince COBOURG's appeared on the 9th of April, revoking entirely the principles contained in his manifeſto of the 5th, and announcing the ceſſation of the armiſtice; the conteſt was accordingly renewed, and the *dogs of war*, more ſavage from their late reſtraint, were once again let looſe upon the world: from this period the commencement of the compaign may be *moſt properly* dated on the ſide of Great Britain. Reinforcements were accordingly ordered to be ſent out to the continent, both of cavalry and infantry, and a contingent of 12,000 Hanoverians were on full march to join the Duke of YORK's army; the landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel had alſo engaged to furniſh a ſubſidy of 6,000 men, with the neceſſary artillery for the term of ſix years. Prince COBOURG, immediately after his ſecond declaration, advanced from his poſition *before Mons*, to penetrate into the French territories, according to the plan decided upon by the congreſs at Antwerp. His opponents were then ſo completely diſperſed, that he found the field entirely open to

And halting our men to repoſe for a while,
Advanc'd to this village, ſcarce diſtant a mile,
Where canton'd we're moſt probably doom'd to remain,
Till with vigour prepar'd to commence the campaign.
The French in our front, are reported in force,
And *Alerte* is the word as a matter of courſe.
Diſmal quarters ſeem theſe after Bruges and Ghent,
But ſoldiers you know muſt be ever content,
Our apartments becharcoal'd with wonderful taſte,
And our windows repair'd with brown paper and paſte.
Who ſo ſnug? Tho' each chamber like Criſpin's fam'd ſtall,
Serves for parlour, for ſleeping-room, kitchen and all.

him, and was enabled to advance rapidly upon Condè, which fortreſs was immediately inveſted and its communication with the interior cut off, while from the poſition he had taken up near *Quivrain*, by extending his line beyond *Bavai*, and occupying the villages on that ſide of the river *Rhonelle*, he at once theatened *Valenciennes*, and kept an eye upon *Maubeuge*. CLAIRFAIT's poſition extended from a branch of the Scheldt near *Condé*, through the *Foret de Raiſmes*, beyond the *Abbaye-Viſcoine*, his right, there communicating with the left of the Pruſſians under General KNOBELSDORF who was in poſſeſſion of the ground from *St. Amand* to the camp of Maulde. After the flight of DUMOURIEZ, the command of the Northern Republican army devolved upon Gen. DAMPIERRE, who was extremely active in aſſembling his forces in the plains of Famars, receiving daily, *from the interior*, conſiderable augmentations. Frequent ſkirmiſhes enſued, but no ſerious engagement took place till the *1ſt of May*, when, with a view to relieve Condé, and open the communication between that Fortreſs and Valenciennes, he attacked all the different poſts of Prince COBOURG's army *at once*, and a body of 6,000 men at the ſame time, ſallied forth from Valenciennes upon the advanced guard, on the ſide of the entrenchments, between the villages of Onaing and St. Saulve. COBOURG immediately diſpatched a column of 4,000 to their ſupport, and *Count Colleredo* proceeded with another of 6,000 to the heights between *Sebourg* and *Etrieux*: finding two lines of the enemy's infantry, of at leaſt double his own ſtrength, before Saultain and Curgies, he immediately gave them battle, and his troops pointed their artillery ſo judiciouſly, and with ſuch effect, that they drove the enemy from the villages, and forced them to retreat within the lines of their

But in palace or hovel I ſtill ſhall remain
Yours, my friend, and you'll hear from me ſhortly again.

encampment at Famars. The French were alſo repulſed at Onaing, and fled precipitately, with a loſs, as it was ſaid, of 9 pieces of artillery, 17 ammunition waggons, and of, at leaſt, 500 men, while the Auſtrians had only 150 killed and wounded. The Republicans, ſupported by a large train of artillery, had alſo advanced from their camp at *Anzin* upon CLAIRFAIT's entrenchments at Raiſmes, and charged them repeatedly, in a very deſperate manner; they were, however, entirely routed in the end, and were reported to have left above 1,000 men behind them, dead upon the field of battle. CLAIRFAIT loſt nearly 200. An attempt was made on the 1ſt to diſlodge Gen. *La Tour* from his poſition between *Bavai* and *Maubeuge*; but the Republicans, after driving in his picquets, were obliged to retreat precipitately, and were purſued by the Imperialiſts to their entrenched camp.

The allies lay upon their arms the whole night, and, as they had expected, at day-break on the 2d, DAMPIERRE ſtill anxious to accompliſh his purpoſe, marched with three formidable columns againſt the Pruſſian lines near *St. Amand.* The conflict was long, ſevere, and bloody; nor was it till CLAIRFAIT detached the regiment of *Starhée*, and the huſſars of *Eſterhazé* and *Barco* to KNOBELSDORF's aſſiſtance, that their enemies gave way, but they then precipitately fled, with a loſs of 34 field pieces, and nearly 2,000 men. The Pruſſians and Auſtrians however paid moſt dearly for their victory, as they had, according to their own returns, 1,400 men killed and wounded.

LETTER V.

Orcq, near Tournay, May 13, 1793.

The Coldstream Guards under a heavy Fire—Their spirited Attacks upon the Wood of St. Amand—Knobelsdorf plays the old Soldier—Success of the Allies in every Direction.

FOR ever be remember'd
The famous eighth of May;
For Briton's rais'd their Nation's fame
On that most glorious day!

In thy deep Wood, fair St. Amand
Their wily foe they fought,
And, Prussian Generals skirting it,
Well pleas'd, their duty taught.

The Battalion's atchievements in St. Amand's Wood,
Would furnish a ballad heroic and good,
One too that would grace ev'ry bookmonger's stall,
And cut no bad figure, pinn'd up to a wall.
But let me with method my story pursue,
For a simple detail will scarce satisfy you;
The Prussians and Keysers had reason to fear
That success would attend persevering Dampierre;
So our Chief thought it right his assistance* to proffer,
And Knobelsdorf gladly accepted his offer.

* In consequence of Damtierre's reiterated attacks upon the Prussians, the British Guards were kept constantly upon the alerte and were frequently under arms, and formed in readiness to march, but till the 7th of May, had not proceeded far from their cantonments at Orcq. The Duke of York had that morning visited Knobelsdorf at St. Amand; and finding the Prussian General expected fully another Republican visit on the following day, his Royal Highness expressed his readiness to march with the Brigade of Guards, and Hanoverians to his assistance.

Knobelsdorf was by far too old a soldier to refuse an offer, that would evidently, as he foresaw, enable him to spare his own troops, and

Proceeding to Maulde, our confed'rates we found
Moſt ſtrongly encamp'd on DUMOURIEZ's late ground*,
And the Coldſtream ſtruck up when allow'd to advance,
Long life to King GEORGE, and confuſion to France;

he therefore not only thankfully cloſed with it *at once*, but promiſed alſo to avail himſelf of the very firſt opportunity of employing his new auxilliaries. They were accordingly under arms at midnight, and proceeded immediately through Tournay to the Camp of Maulde, where they halted at day-break on the 8th.

DAMPIERRE had eſtabliſhed ſeveral formidable batteries in the wood oppoſite to the *Abbaye Viſcoine*, and a body of at leaſt 10,000 men, drawn from the garriſon of Lille, was poſted in the *Abbaye D'Hannoh*; where, protected by *the Wood*, they were enabled to advance upon the Pruſſians, and could eaſily retreat in ſafety in caſe of a repulſe. The Allies had been daily harraſſed by teazing attacks of little moment ſince the 2d; but early on the morning of the 8th, as was expected, the enemy evinced a diſpoſition of making another ſerious effort to paſs the boundaries of the Wood. The firſt attack was made by the troops encamped at Anzin, with a view to diſlodge Gen. CLAIRFAIT from his poſition in the *Foret de Raiſmes*; and at day-break a lively cannonade commenced in that direction. The troops encamped at Famars, appeared at the ſame time, formed in order of battle, and the garriſon of Valenciennes ſhewed themſelves drawn up in readineſs to ſupport them, keeping COBOURG in check, while DAMPIERRE once again endeavoured to throw a ſupply both of troops and of proviſions into *Condé*, of which the Governor ſtood in the greateſt need.

* The Republicans having approached the edge of the Wood, the engagement became general about nine o'clock, when the Grenadiers and Firſt Battalion of the Coldſtream, and Third Guards, were ordered to move forwards, to a ſmall Pruſſian Camp, ſituated between the villages of Nivelle and of La Motte, near the town of St. Amand. They remained there till the evening, when KNOBELSDORF wiſhing one Battalion to advance, the Coldſtream being firſt for duty, marched towards Viſcoine, and the Pruſſian General *himſelf conducting them* along the Chauſſée to the ſkirts of the Wood, deſired they would enter it, and immediately galloped off, leaving Col. PENNINGTON, without giving any directions whatever relative to his further operations. The French redoubts were ſo conſtructed, that they in a great meaſure, commanded the Chauſſée, leading to St. Amand, the field pieces attached to the Guards, were therefore placed upon it, and by a briſk and well-directed fire, they kept the guns oppoſed to them, in check.

As we paſs'd on, the fierce whiſker'd Pruſſians we view'd
In battle array near the ſkirts of the wood.
Their Chieftain deſir'd us to enter, and in
We darted like light'ning, thro' thick, and thro' thin.
Staunch hounds in full cry when purſuing their prey,
Were never more eagerneſs known to diſplay.
Before us the French on retreat we deſcried,
And firing one volley, the bayonet tried;
Ere their flight was arreſted, with grief I relate,
What was many a valorous Coldſtreamer's* fate.
A maſk'd gun wheel'd forwards, diſcharg'd ſhowers of
grape,
And we thought for a time not a man would eſcape,
Till the drummers *to arms* were commanded to beat,
While PENNINGTON † privately hinted retreat,

* When the *right* Companies of the Coldſtream Battalions had nearly cloſed upon their flying enemies; a piece of ordnance was by the Republicans wheeled forwards from a battery, which had been totally concealed from our intrepid countrymen, by the numerous buſhes and impenetrable underwood of the gloomy foreſt. A tremendous fire was thus inſtantaneouſly brought to bear upon them, when within *piſtol ſhot* of the very ſpot to which the gun had been advanced, and in a few moments, thoſe Companies which were the moſt expoſed, commanded by the late Col. BOSVILLE, Cols. GASCOINE, FREEMANTLE, and FITZROY, ſuffered conſiderably; the firſt having 21 rank and file, the ſecond 19, the third 14, and the fourth 9, killed and wounded. The left wing eſcaped however without the loſs of a ſingle ſoldier, for ſo ſudden was this unfortunate rencontre, that the laſt diviſion had ſcarcely croſſed the Hedge-Row, ſeparating the Chauſſée from the Foreſt, when the foremoſt was engaged.

† The moſt dreadful havoc muſt, in all human probability, have taken place, had it not been for the very prudent and collected conduct of Col. PENNINGTON. With infinite preſence of mind, he immediately, leſt the Republicans might be encouraged, if they imagined he was preparing to retreat, commanded the drums to beat *to arms*; at the ſame time, directing the ſoldiers to form to their colours, which he had pre-

And HOWARD thy colours* were proudly display'd,
Tho' dear for their threats thou hast certainly paid;
Yet thy brethren rejoice, wounds so bravely receiv'd,
When examin'd, were void of all danger believ'd.
Poor DARNLEY!† sincerely, we mourn thy hard fate,
On a pris'ner so mangled, what horrors await!

viously planted *in the rear*. Thus, in a very judicious manner, he drew them, much to his credit, *as a General*, in a short time, from certainly a most perilous situation.

This was, it will be well remembered, the first time that any part of the British Guards had been engaged, and, it must be allowed, that they to a man behaved most nobly, well aware that their national character was at stake, for the eyes of those far-famed Veterans were upon them, whose principles *in manœuvering*, they had been so recently and so carefully instructed to imitate, and to regard as models of perfection.

* Though the fire was certainly attracted by the colours which Ensign HOWARD carried unfurled, agreeable to orders, and, he was consequently wounded; it was an astonishing circumstance that the other officers escaped so well; for attentive solely to the situation of their men, they took not the least precautions for their own personal security. The greatest heroism was displayed by several of the wounded soldiers, who seemed to vie with each other in manifesting a total disregard of bodily pain, and were observed to use their feeble efforts against the enemies of their country, while their remaining strength enabled them to pull a trigger with effect. One brave fellow in particular, having received a wound in the leg, which obliged him unwillingly to drop upon his knees, loaded his piece, and exerting himself, that the Republicans might hear his voice, *in that position*, struck up "God save the King," continuing to fire untill he fell, dispatched by three successive body wounds.

† Serjeant Major DARNLEY certainly died a prisoner in France, in consequence of the wounds he had received. Though, with a degree of unfeeling thoughtlessness, which has kept his widow in a state of painful anxiety, the Editors have frequently of late inserted paragraphs in several of the public news-papers, announcing his safety and recovery.

Fortunately the Republicans gave their opponent Generals more credit than they were by any means entitled to receive; had DAMPIERRE been aware of the very *forlorn* situation of the Coldstream, (for not a single Prussian was at that time *in the Wood*,) they would not probably have suffered a single man of the Battalion to have escaped. Deceived however by the spirited attack, and perceiving by the appearance of *scarlet uniforms*, that KNOBELSDORF had received a reinforcement of British troops, they gave up their intentions for that night.

Emerg'd from the foreſt, the third we perceiv'd
Haſt'ning on, and by them were moſt gladly reliev'd;
But their trip to the wood did not coſt them a man,
As the French had a retrogade movement began.
The Pruſſians, rejoic'd their own bacon to ſave,
Were laviſh of praiſes, and ſtyling us *brave*,
Next day would have done us the honour again,
Of dooming ſome more of our men to be ſlain;
But LAKE, tho' he own'd that the favour was great,
Refus'd, till the Duke his intention ſhould ſtate;
And the Duke, (which we all were delighted to find)
The honour intended, politely declin'd.
Our opponents however retired* in the night,
And the rifle-men kept up a ſlight popping fight;
The Carmagnols† loſs without doubt was ſevere,
And a ſix pounder paid its reſpects to DAMPIERRE‡.

* To the Abbaye D'Hannon.

† A name given to the French troops, from a popular Democratic Song, "La Carmagnol des Royaliſtes."

‡ Gen. DAMPIERRE had his thigh ſmaſhed towards the cloſe of the evening, by a cannon ball, fired, as it was ſuppoſed, from one of the Britiſh long ſix pounders, of which wound he afterwards expired, and was buried with the greateſt pomp and military honours on the Heights of Famars; where a monument, exhorting all Republican ſoldiers to imitate his civic virtues, and to take example from his courage, was erected to his memory, by the Commiſſioners at Valenciennes. His buſt was alſo placed in the National Pantheon at Paris. DAMPIERRE, as he had failed in his endeavours to relieve Condé, would probably, according to the ſyſtem then moſt prevalent in France, have finiſhed his career upon the ſcaffold, had he eſcaped the perils of the field of battle. He was one of the very few Conventional Chieftains, who had been born a Gentleman, and bred a Soldier. As night approached, the firing of the enemy gradually decreaſed; and the Third Regiment was, after the retreat of the rifle men, withdrawn from the Wood. The French loſt, it was reported, near 4,000 men in killed and wounded, in their different attacks that day; the Pruſſians 300; and the Auſtrians 500.

Thus the ice has been broke, and we ſoon ſhall advance
To the glory of England, and terror of France;

When the Detachment of Guards were, on the 9th of May, upon their march towards Tournay, an Aid-de-Camp from CLAIRFAIT arriving with intelligence, that the Republicans had conſtructed batteries in the preceding night along his front, which, if they were permitted to complete, would render his ſituation untenable; the Britiſh troops were halted at the village of Maulde, and his Royal Highneſs the Duke of YORK repaired to St. Amand, where he was met by CLAIRFAIT, and by Gen. KNOBELSDORF, when it was determined, that the Auſtrians and Pruſſians in conjunction, ſhould aſſault not only thoſe batteries, but the whole chain of French poſts, at day-break the next morning. Accordingly with a very trifling loſs on their ſides, the Allies made 10 officers, and 150 privates priſoners; the Corps which had advanced from *Lille* to *Hannon*, fell back precipitately upon Orchies, and the French retreated in every direction, appearing entirely to abandon their deſigns. The Imperialiſts then took poſſeſſion of the Abbaye D'Hannon, and immediately cut down the trees in the Wood of Amand, as they had afforded ſo complete a cover to the enemy.

The other Battalions having joined the Firſt Regiment of Guards, at the Camp of Maulde, the Brigade and Hanoverians returned immediately to their former cantonments, and the Republicans appeared determined to act entirely upon *the defenſive*, to which end they rendered their Camp at Famars as formidable as poſſible, and were ſeen buſily employed in digging entrenchments, and conſtructing batteries on every Height. The ground, riſing in regular ſlopes from the *Rhonelle*, to the ſpot where DAMPIERRE's monument was placed, particularly favoured their deſigns, overlooking the town of Valenciennes, and the country where Prince COBOURG's army was encamped.

On the 12th of May at day-break, about 1,200 of the garriſon of Condé made a vigorous ſortie, directing their fire againſt ſome barns and farm houſes at *Vieux Condé*, which covered the Auſtrian Chaſſeurs: A Battalion of Auſtrian Infantry, however, advancing againſt them, ſucceeded in turning their flank, and they were repulſed with conſiderable ſlaughter.

While the Allies on the Northern Frontiers of France were thus fortunate, Prince HOHENLOHE, who commanded on the Eaſtern, had ſucceeded in driving HOUCHARD from his poſition in the woods, covering the *Duchy of Deux-Ponts*; and had encamped his troops near *Homburg*, forcing the French advanced poſts to retire beyond *Blieſcaſtle*. The blockade of Mayence was continued, though CUSTINE continually haraſſed the Confederates, by teazing and reiterated attacks, where many lives were loſt, without any real advantage being gained by either party.

Such feats ſhall atchieve, that old Homer again,
If living, would brandiſh his fame-dealing pen;
Yet, my friend, tho' theſe ſcrawls you are doom'd to peruſe,
Allowances make for a *juvenile Muſe*;

The French encamped before *Caſſel*, made ſeveral attempts upon the town of *Heckheim* on *the Mayne*, but were invariably repulſed by the Pruſſians, Heſſians, and Saxons, in that quarter.

The protection of Weſt-Flanders was conſigned entirely to the Dutch, and the hereditary Prince of ORANGE fixed his head-quarters at Courtray without meeting with the ſmalleſt oppoſition. The Spaniards had by this time collected an enormous force, and appeared upon the Pyrenean Mountains, hanging over and threatening Rouſillon, and the Province of Languedoc, with a rapid deſcent. DON ANTONIO RICARDOS, the Commander in Chief of the army of Catalonia, previous to the actual commencement of hoſtilities, publiſhed a manifeſto, ſtating "That the army under his command was not about to enter France with any *hoſtile views*, his Catholic Majeſty propoſing ſolely to deliver the French nation from the horrid deſpotiſm with which ſhe was oppreſſed by an unlawful, tyrannical, and uſurping aſſembly, the members of which, after having ſubverted and trod upon religion, laws, and the ſafety of public and individual property, after having ordained in cold blood, the moſt unheard of murders on the moſt reſpectable and innocent perſons, had filled up the meaſure of their iniquities, by ſhedding the blood of their lawful and well-meaning Sovereign upon a ſcaffold. This manifeſto concluded with an offer of protection and ſupport to all true Frenchmen, who ſhould declare themſelves to be attached to a monarchical government, and a threatening declaration, that all thoſe who ſhould ſide with the pretended National Convention, ſhould be treated as traitors and as rebels."

Some trifling advantages, as might naturally have been expected from the inferior force oppoſing them, were at firſt gained by the Spaniards, and we very ſoon perceived them penetrating as far as *Ceret*, and even menacing *Bellegarde*.

In addition to all the foreign powers inimical to her cauſe, France had, at this period, a new and moſt formidable enemy to contend with; the firſt leader of the royaliſts, who had adopted the fictitious appellation of *Gaſton* (probably as it was the name of a brother of the fourteenth Louis) had planted his ſtandard in the country of La Vendée, and thouſands daily gathered round it, till he found himſelf at the head of a very numerous army. The convention paid, at firſt, but little attention to this inſurrection, treating the Royaliſts as *banditti*, beneath their notice: but their repeated ſucceſſes, for they had advanced upon Rochfort,

One purpoſe they'll anſwer, by proving moſt clearly,
If proofs are requir'd, that I'm your's moſt ſincerely.

Rochelle, and Nantes, after defeating the Republicans in every engagement; ſpread at length a ſerious alarm through the capital; and SANTERRE the brewer (that wretch, who, when the ſixteenth LOUIS, from the ſcaffold, endeavoured to addreſs himſelf to the miſguided populace, ordered the drums to beat up loudly to prevent his being heard) was fixed upon as the moſt eligible general to march againſt thoſe men, who ſtill retained a reſpect for the memory of their martyred ſovereign.

When the Volunteers were preparing to depart from PARIS to *La Vendée*, at the time of opening the theatres, all the carriages and horſes met with in the ſtreets were ſeized upon, to convey them with the greateſt expedition, and that appears to be the firſt inſtance of the property of individuals having been forcibly put in requiſition for the uſe of the French armies. Upon a remonſtrance from the ſections, they were, however, *then* reſtored to their owners, with a proviſo, that they ſhould be forthcoming whenever they were called for, and the horſes thus ſeized upon for the uſe of the Republic, were immediately branded with an iron, marking them as ſlaves to the convention, with the proſtituted cap of liberty. This was ſurely the critical moment, when the allies ſhould have aſſiſted the Royaliſts with all their might, and the departure of Lord HOOD's fleet at that very time for the Mediterranean, led us to believe, it was with a view of ſupporting thoſe brave and perſevering enthuſiaſts in, *certainly*, an honourable cauſe. Had they been then ſupplied with cloathing, arms, and ammunition, little doubts need have been entertained of their ſucceſs; and no conqueſts by ſea or land, would have ſo ſpeedily brought about the bleſſings attendant on the olive branch, as a forcible impreſſion made in the heart of the Republic, while the ſentiments of the nation *were unſettled*, and the majority of the departments, at a diſtance from the capital, were uninfected with the mania of *ſanſculotiſm* and of equality.

LETTER VI.

CAMP AT SOLTAIN, NEAR VALENCIENNES, *May* 29, 1793.

Advance of the Duke of York's, to join Prince Cobourg's Army.—Battle of Famars.—Investiture of Valenciennes.

AFTER firing (and surely we scarce could do less,)
A brisk feu-de-joie for our brilliant success,
We pass'd thro' Rocour*, and encamp'd near Baissieu,
With COBOURG's grand army, the foe to pursue.
That Prince with his Staff and attendants we found,
To see† us drawn up as we march'd to our ground.

* The brigade of British light dragoons having arrived at Tournay, formed upon the plan proposed to government by Gen. Ralph DUNDASS, viz. that instead of sending entire regiments upon actual service, when many of the men were *raw recruits*, and the horses *too young* to undergo fatigue, a certain number of troops should be drafted from each corps, as by that means none but *made soldiers*, and serviceable horses would be employed, while those remaining in England were trained and disciplined against augmentations were demanded. The 14th and 53d regiments, with the grenadiers and light company of the 37th, (the *Battalion* having been detained to encrease the garrison of Ostend) were then formed into a second brigade of British infantry under the command of Major Gen. ABERCROMBIE. The first division of the Hanoverian contingent amounting to 6,000 men, having also been compleated, the Duke of YORK's army, amounting to about 10,000 men, received his Royal Highness's orders to advance on the 29th of April from their quarters and cantonments in the neighbourhood of Tournay, where they were replaced by a corps of between 5 and 6,000 Dutch troops.

† Prince COBOURG seemed highly pleased with the appearance of the British; but remarked that the dress of the light dragoons so nearly resembled that worn by the Republican cavalry, that mistakes might frequently arise, attended with most fatal consequences; to prevent which, a piece of white linen was ordered to be fastened in a conspicuous manner round the right arm of every British dragoon, and the imperialists were carefully informed of the distinction.

He was pleas'd with our men as they pass'd in review,
And his looks said "My lads, you'll have something to do."
On the left of his army our camp had been trac'd,
And we found ourselves close to the Keyserlicks* plac'd.
Their martial appearance fill'd all with delight,
By sev'n † years *close practice* inur'd to the fight.
Well fed, and fine fellows, above six feet high,
Bewhisker'd each visage, besabred each thigh;
Grenadiers from Bohemia, Hungarians and Croats,
Created on purpose to cut Frenchmen's throats;
Curassiers with hats shot thro' and cover'd with scars,
With Hulans, Tirolians, Pandours, and Hussars.
The least of them seem'd to be able to eat
Six French at a breakfast, and think it a treat.
'Twas fix'd on Famars we should make an attack,
As plann'd by that great engineer, Colonel MACK.
We silent advanc'd ‡ under cover of night,
Our approach to conceal from the enemy's sight.

* *Keyser*, in German, signifies *Emperor*. *Keyserlick*, *Imperial*. The Austrian troops are therefore indiscriminately called *Keyserlicks*.

† The Emperor was at variance with the Turks for 7 years, and that bloody war was scarcely terminated, when the coalition against France was formed; the Imperialists were therefore allowed no respite.

‡ The Republicans had remained perfectly quiet, since their memorable defeat in the wood near St. Amand, and Prince COBOURG, who had been long waiting for the reinforcements brought up by the Duke of YORK, immediately upon their arrival, issued orders for his whole force to be in readiness to march upon a moment's warning; an immense train of heavy artillery having been previously prepared, on the 22d, *at midnight*. The camps were all in motion, and the troops composing the grand army, mustering about 80,000 men, divided into four columns, silently began their march. The fires were carefully kept burning, and the few men left behind in camp, continued calling out *Wer da* from post to post *as usual*, lest the enemy's picquets might, had they been silent, have been induced to imagine some extraordinary movement had occurred.

When each column* purſuing a different way,
Safe arriv'd at its ſtation before break of day,
A fog ſpread around us, ſo murky and denſe,
We delay'd for ſome time the attack to commence.
Like a curtain, to riſe by degrees it appear'd,
Aurora peep'd forth, and all nature was cheer'd.
When *Phœbus* propitiouſly deigning to ſhine,
Shot inſtantly forth all his radiance divine.
So glorious a ſpectacle then we perceiv'd,
As, paſſing deſcription†, could ſcarce be believ'd.
The eye ſought relief from huge columns of men,
That cover'd the valley, and wound thro' the glen.
And while Sol on their arms play'd refulgently bright,
They proudly reflected him back, his own light!

The Centinels on duty calling *all's well* from the moſt advanced picquet, to the chain of poſts communicating with the camp, has in the dead of night, an awful and a grand effect; the cuſtom has been highly reprobated by many experienced officers, who ſay, that a Centinel ſhould be *all eye*, and give *no tongue*, but in caſe of actual danger; it was however univerſally practiſed by the Auſtrians, and, on the 22d of May, they were more loud and frequent in their communications to each other than uſual.

* The troops compoſing the column under the command of His Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, advanced towards the Rhonelle, conducted by proper guides, and without approaching near enough to alarm the advanced poſts of the enemy, lay upon their arms till day break: that under Gen. Colleredo was employed to obſerve Valenciennes, towards *St. Saulve* and *Eſtreux*: Gen. Otto took up a poſition to prevent any ſortie from Le Queſnoi; and the fourth, led on by Gen. Ferraris, was deſtined to aſſault the batteries conſtructed upon the right banks of the Rhonelle, where the enemy's advanced guard was poſted.

† A remarkably thick fog favoured conſiderably the approach of the allies, though it in ſome degree retarded their operations, till diſperſed by the penetrating rays of the riſing ſun. The moſt experienced veterans in the Duke's army (and there were many who had ſeen much active ſervice in the former wars) declared, that they had never witneſſed ſo beautiful a ſcene as the different columns afforded, advancing in every direction in battle array, where the enemies were, by any means aware of their proximity.

Advancing with clos'd and compact ſteady ranks,
Our cavalry poſted in force on our flanks.
Near an eminence form'd to advantage we view'd
The gen'ral attack, which ſoon after enſued.
The conflict commenc'd with a briſk cannonade,
And ſome batt'ries were ſtorm'd by our ſecond brigade*.
Some Huſſars Carmagnol we perceiv'd on the plain,
But wheeling, they wiſely retreated again
To a village, from whence they ſeem'd loth to retire,
Till the Auſtrian artillery ſet it on fire.
Our column then o'er the Rhonelle† the way led,
To turn their right flank, but the daſtards had fled.

* After the picquets had been driven in, or rather had precipitately retreated, the columns under the command of the Duke of York, and of Gen. Ferraris, advanced in different directions nearer the Rhonelle: ſeveral batteries opened upon them as they approached from the oppoſite banks of the river, but with little effect, though a few of the Auſtrian *cuiraſſiers*, who were more forward than the other troops, were wounded. They are ſo called from wearing a breaſt-plate, which defends entirely the upper part of the body againſt gun ſhot wounds; the *curaiſſe* nearly meets behind, and appears extremely cumberſome and heavy, but from conſtant habit, the ſoldiers ſo appointed do not appear in the ſmalleſt degree incommoded by its weight.

The Auſtrian heavy artillery was quickly brought up, and ſome time was paſſed in a briſk cannonade on both ſides, during which, Vilerſpol was ſet on fire by a ſhower of ſhells, thrown rapidly into the village, and then the *beauty* of the ſcene (if the term is admiſſible, when reflection tells us, the conſequences of its grandeur were productive of havoc and deſtruction) was conſiderably heightened.

† The huſſars of Eſtahazé and Barco, without meeting with any oppoſition, paſſed the river at the village of *Mareſch*, when the brigade of guards, and two battalions of Auſtrian infantry, with the Britiſh and Hanoverian light dragoons, purſued the ſame route, to take the redoubts near *Querenaing*, and ſecure a paſſage for the other troops, by turning the enemy's right flank, which extended to thoſe works, while their left *leaned upon* Valenciennes. This movement had the deſired effect, as the French on that ſide abandoning their poſts, fell back precipitately to ſome batteries they had erected on the heights behind the village of Famars.

There join'd by the fam'd Eſterhazé huſſars,
We approach'd a thick wood between that and Famars.
But our flankers advancing, perceiv'd, when drawn near,
The poſt was entirely abandon'd and clear.
Rejoic'd ſo completely our point to have gain'd,
In that ſtrong poſition ſome hours we remain'd.
Then forwards were order'd ſome batteries to ſtorm*,
Whence the firing continued tremendouſly warm.

Early in the day, ſeveral ſquadrons of French cavalry, formed on a riſing ground, were ſeen threatening the flank of Gen. FERRARIS' column: they were attacked by the Hanoverian life guards, drawn up on the plain *below them*, in a moſt ſpirited manner; indeed, nothing could exceed the bravery with which they *repeatedly* galloped up the hill, menacing their adverſaries, who at length, teaſed by their frequent *threats*, came pouring down upon them, *ſword in hand*, like a torrent ruſhing violently over the ſides of a craggy mountain, and threatening to lay waſte the country at its baſe.

They were met more than half way, both parties urging their horſes' heads againſt each other, with an impetuoſity which appeared irreſiſtable. Like contending waves driven together by oppoſite currents, they at firſt appeared one firm conſolidated body, neither ſide yielding for a moment, but to gain new force; at length the Republicans loſt ground, and their opponents purſuing them, the moſt dreadful carnage inſtantly enſued.

Every broad ſword appeared fluſhed with reeking gore up to the very hilt, nor was the victory atchieved without a conſiderable loſs on the ſide of the conquerors. They had 3 officers killed, two were taken priſoners, 4 wounded, and 67 rank and file were killed, wounded or miſſing.

* Gen. FERRARIS, after cannonading for ſome time, carried the entrenchments in front of the French line, at the point of the bayonet. With him was ſtationed the 14th, 53d, and flank companies of the 37th regiment, compoſing the 2d Britiſh brigade under the command of Gen. ABERCROMBIE. Seven pieces of cannon, and upwards of 150 priſoners, were taken in the redoubts. Gen. ABERCROMBIE loſt only 1 drummer, and 1 rank and file killed, 2 ſerjeants, and 12 wounded. The Auſtrians, however, experienced a conſiderable loſs of men. (It may not be amiſs thus early in the narrative, to ſtate, for the information of thoſe unconnected with military tranſactions, and who perhaps never before heard the term explained, that *rank and file* means, in gazette returns, the corporals and private ſoldiers.)

Inſufficient our force to poſſeſs them was found,
And we ſoon countermarch'd to our former ſtrong ground.
Ere morn's crimſon beams ting'd the tips of the trees,
Reſolv'd, Coute qui coute, on thoſe batt'ries to ſeize;
But prudent, or probably ſeiz'd with a fright,
Our foes, *tres polis*, ſcamper'd off in the night*.
From their camp at Famars too, they ſcudded away,
To Cambrai, and Bouchain, Arras, and Douai.
A place of more ſtrength we ſhall ſcarce ever ſee,
Than the camp thus obtain'd; a moſt perfect glacis.
Chains of batt'ries commanding each other were found,
And 'twas known, had they bravely diſputed their ground,

Two regiments of Hanoverian infantry, and a battalion of their grenadiers, which had ſerved at Gibraltar, and was diſtinguiſhed by having the name of that impenetrable rock, worked round the coat-ſleeve, were alſo preſent, and they, as well as the Britiſh brigade, had their full ſhare of the honor gained by that column, which was, it will be ſeen, the moſt, *in fire*. In the evening, the Duke of York advanced along a hollow way towards the village of *Artré*, againſt the works behind *Famars*, but upon its being repreſented to his Royal Highneſs that the French were *there* ſo advantageouſly poſted, that every effort to diſlodge them that evening would be fruitleſs; the troops were countermarched, and, wearied out with the fatigues which they had undergone, (having been marching the greater part of the night of the 22d, and employed the 23d from day break to ſun ſet without any refreſhment, excepting a ſmall portion of ammunition bread and water) they lopped off the boughs from the neighbouring trees, and twining them together, formed a ſlight covering for the night, where they were permitted to repoſe, without however quitting their arms for a moment, after ſtrong picquets had been poſted in their front.

* On the 24th, at 4 o'clock in the morning, the allies were once more formed, and moving ſteadily forwards, it was found that their enemies had abandoned their works, and retreated to the grand army, ſtill ſuppoſed to have maintained its ground upon the formidable heights of *Famars*. Serious and bloody muſt indeed have been the conteſt, had that been the caſe, but fortunately the panic had univerſally gone forth, and the Republicans gave up, without firing a ſingle ſhot, a poſition naturally ſtrong, and on which art had exhauſted all her efforts to render it *impregnable*.

'Twould have coſt the allies, to have put them to rout,
Four thouſand brave fellows, beyond any doubt.
Mack*, beforehand, had made an exact computation,
Not including odd limbs in his nice calculation.
Of the peaſantry round, how diſtreſſing the fate!
Their treatment † *a ſoldier* muſt bluſh to relate.
The Heſſians and Auſtrians, to rapine inur'd,
And our troops by their baneful example allur'd,
Exceſſes commit, that muſt ruin our cauſe,
If continued, in breach of all order, and laws.

* Col. Mack, who had planned the whole attack, was ſlightly wounded early on the morning of the 23d, and forced to quit the field before he ſaw the victory enſured to Prince Cobourg. Count Colloredo's column was the firſt that took poſſeſſion of *the heights*, and the French were ſeen on full march to the fortreſſes in their rear, as Ferrand the governor of Valenciennes, after completing his garriſon to 11,000 men, cloſed the gates upon the reſt of the diſpirited Republicans, who all endeavoured to gain admiſſion to that town, as the neareſt place of ſafety for the moment—ſo great—ſo unaccountable was their alarm.

† On the 24th, after the troops had taken up their ground upon the heights, they were permitted to go in ſearch of water, to the village of Famars, and under that pretext, behaved moſt ſcandalouſly to the perſecuted inhabitants, who were pillaged and deprived of the whole of their property; nay, their very clothes were forcibly torn from off their backs, and they were ſeen almoſt naked at their cottage doors, wringing their hands in the greateſt miſery. The officers of different corps exerted themſelves as much as poſſible, to diſcover and to puniſh the offenders; and the captain of a troop of Auſtrian huſſars, upon being told that one of his men had torn the bed from under a woman and her infant, of which ſhe had been but a ſhort time delivered, cut down the hardened villain with his ſabre, and left his body on a dunghill near the ſpot; this act of ſummary juſtice had the deſired effect, by reſtraining in ſome degree, the unbridled licentiouſneſs of the ſoldiery; the object of plunder was *fine cambric*, as great quantities were manufactured at the villages ſurrounding Valenciennes. Many of the Britiſh diſgraced themſelves by marauding, and a corporal of the 1ſt regiment of guards, who croſſed a branch of the Rhonelle, to ſearch a houſe on the oppoſite banks of the river, had encumbered his body with ſuch a quantity of that article, which he had wound round his waiſt, that he was drowned in his endeavours to return.

The heights of Famars, on Valenciennes look down,
And we now have completely blockaded the town;
Mont Anzin* has been luckily gain'd by CLAIRFAIT,
And the ſiege will commence, without further delay.

* At the very moment when Prince COBOURG's army advanced upon Famars, CLAIRFAIT, as had been previouſly concerted, aſſaulted the camp of Mont Anzin, on the oppoſite ſide of the river Scheldt; and his operations were fortunately crowned with equal ſucceſs, though he experienced from his opponents a more obſtinate and ſteady reſiſtance. His loſs muſt therefore have exceeded that of the grand army, amounting to about 600 men. The French were reported to have experienced a loſs, in the various attacks made upon them on the 23d, about 3,000; yet as at Famars, they made no ſtand, excepting to favor their retreat, that account muſt ſurely have been much exaggerated. Thoſe unacquainted with the *ſecret defences* of Valenciennes, have frequently expreſſed their aſtoniſhment, that the bombardment of the place did not commence from Mont Anzin, a ſituation completely commanding *the citadel*: but to the *Marquis de Bouillie*, at that time with the Duke's army, the beſiegers were indebted for the information he gave them, that mines of conſiderable magnitude and extent were formed in that direction, which rendered it extremely hazardous to advance CLAIRFAIT's camp too near the place.

Condé and Valenciennes being thus both entirely abandoned to their fate, Prince COBOURG determined, from the accounts he early received of the great ſcarcity that exiſted in the former place, as well as from the difficulty of approaching near enough to erect his batteries on account of the inundations, to blockade it cloſely, and wait till hunger ſhould oblige the governor to throw open the gates; while he proceeded vigorouſly with the ſiege of the latter. The park of heavy artillery, for battering in breach, large mortars and howitzers, were accordingly ordered to be brought up immediately, and in the mean time, the different troops took up their poſitions to draw more cloſely round, and form the inveſtiture of the place. The Auſtrians under Gen. FERRARIS extended from the Scheldt near the village of *Saulve* to *Soltain*, where their left communicated with the grenadiers of the guards forming the right of the Britiſh army, which, winding between the villages of *Preſſeau* and *Aulnoil*, joined the Hanoverians and Heſſians at Famars; while CLAIRFAIT's army extended from the left banks of the Scheldt to St. Leger, communicating alſo with *Famars*. The remainder of Prince COBOURG's forces formed a grand covering army of at leaſt 80,000 men, part of which was detached to obſerve Maubeuge and Le Queſnoi, while the main body

To our ſummons, this anſwer with ſcorn was return'd,
That ſlaves, and their terms, they contemptuouſly ſpurn'd*.

preſented a front to the army of the north, regulating its motions by the movements of the enemy, and outflanking Cambray and Douay; while the Dutch, who had ſucceeded in their attack upon *Mouchin* on the 23d, and made themſelves, at the ſame time, maſters of Orchies, by occupying the poſts from thence to Tournay, ſupported by the Pruſſians at Hannon, and the camp of Maulde, protected the army, bloccading Condé againſt ſorties from Lille.

* Prince COBOURG had complimented the Duke of YORK with the command of the beſieging army, and his Royal Highneſs, immediately after the battle of Famars, ſent and Aid de Camp with a ſummons to FERRAND, the Governor, which was anſwered with all the inſolent familiarity of thoſe new diſciples of equality, encloſed in a copy of an oath, tied round with the tri-coloured ribband, by which the garriſon had bound themſelves rather to be buried under the ruins, than ſurrender to the enemies of the republick.

At this time the French obtained ſome trifling advantages over the Dutch in Weſt Flanders. Prince FREDERICK of Naſſau Orange had eſtabliſhed his head-quarters at Menin, and advanced his poſts as far as Roubaix. It could hardly be expected that the French would permit him to remain long in quiet poſſeſſion of a poſition ſo near to Lille. On the 24th, a large body advanced from that fortreſs, and drove his poſts back upon Tourquoin, where they made a ſtand, but were at length obliged to retreat through Menin upon Courtray, with a loſs of 21 officers, and 450 men, killed, wounded, and miſſing. The next day Prince FREDERICK again approached Menin, which is the laſt town unfortunately for its inhabitants on the Emperor's frontiers, therefore living under daily apprehenſions of eruptions from the French who frequently attack it for the ſake of pillage, and not thinking it worth defending, retire to Lille, and only defer their next viſit till they imagine the inhabitants have again collected their furniture and effects, and can ſupply them with freſh booty. A column of 5,000 men from Dunkirk arrived before Furnes on the 30th of April, the garriſon of the place amounting only to about 1200 Dutch oppoſed them for ſome hours, but, from a want of artillery, they were ultimately obliged to retreat, and to fall back upon *Oſtend*. There too, the object *of the French* was evidently plunder, as they loſt no time in loading empty carts they had brought with them for that purpoſe, with the military ſtores and ammunition; and after ſtripping

Tell EMMA, whenever we enter the place,
I'll remember ſhe wiſh'd for ſome beautiful lace.

the houſes of every article they could lay their hands upon, retired laden with their ſpoils, carrying off the burgomaſter, and five other magiſtrates, as hoſtages for the contributions they demanded of oxen, ſheep, and forage.

On the ſide of the Rhine more ſerious attacks were made by CUSTINE, who appeared determined to ſtrain every nerve to relieve Mayence. Having previouſly obliged Prince HOHENLOE, by an attack upon his camp near *Homburg*, to fall back upon *Kaiſerſlautern*, thereby once more gaining Poſſeſſion of *Deux Ponts*, HOUCHARD kept the Pruſſians in that quarter in check, while Pirmaſens was aſſaulted; that poſt carried, a ſtrong column was detached to file off round Spires towards *Mayence*. The garriſon of Landau at the ſame time made a ſucceſsful ſortie upon the Auſtrians and emigrants under the Prince de CONDE, forming the blockade of the place on the ſide towards the *Rhine*, while CUSTINE, with three ſtrong columns, compriſing the main body of his army, aſſaulted Wurmſer on that towards the Moſelle, at day break on the 17th of May. The engagement became general near Billickheim, and the French, at the firſt onſet, had decidedly the advantage; but, ſays Cuſtine, "while the infantry were forming, a ſquadron of our own cavalry riding up towards them, one of the battalions miſtook them for the enemy, and retreated in diſorder: it became therefore impoſſible to rally them, and in their ſhameful flight, they fired upon the other troops, and behaved themſelves like *cowards*." Gen. WURMSUR was however obliged to fall back behind the river *Queich*, and though this attempt to relieve Mayence failed, the French gained a very conſiderable advantage, by opening the communication with Landau, and making themſelves maſters of ſeveral important poſts in its vicinity. CUSTINE was ſoon after removed to the command of the army of the north, as his free manner of talking of the conduct of his ſoldiers had rendered him unpopular on the Rhine. Probably expecting this event, he ſeems to have haſtened this attack on the allies, leſt his ſucceſſor, after his departure, ſhould reap the glory of the operations he had himſelf planned. The Auſtrians reckoned their loſs at 130 killed. The Emigrants theirs at 100.

On the 7th of June, the Republicans, to the number of 2,600, made an eruption into the duchy of Luxembourg, after defeating *Baron Schræder* at Arlons. On the 12th, they were, however, in their turn, repulſed and driven back upon *Thionville*, and various ſkirmiſhes of leſs importance took place, evidently ſhewing the wonderful reſourſes of the French, who could ſo vigorouſly oppoſe the various armies invading their territories in every direction, at a time when they had ſo formidable an enemy to contend with *in the interior*.

LETTER VII.

CAMP AT SOLTAIR, *July 23d, 1793.*

Opening of the Trenches preparatory to the Siege of Valenciennes—Bombardment of the Place—Ferrand's boasted Sortie—Sufferings of the Inhabitants—Operation carried on by the Besiegers.

OUR works* we've advanc'd to the walls of the town,
So close, that they threaten to batter them down.
Since our summons, FERRAND has with scorn disregarded,
Valenciennes has, alas, been severely bombarded:
And duty, the subalterns calls for so fast,
That two thirds of our time in the trenches is past.

* On the night of the 13th of June, the trenches were opened before Valenciennes; and on the 14th, at day break, the first parallel was established, and with very little loss, as their enemies fortunately did not perceive the parties advancing, owing to the extreme darkness of the night; nor could they, as the soil was of a soft clayey nature, unmixed with stones or gravel, hear them at their work till they had entrenched themselves sufficiently to be well protected against the firing from the ramparts. The French had burnt down the village of Marlis, situated close upon the suburbs of the town, lest it should afford any cover to the besiegers in their approaches; in that direction, however, on the one side, and towards St. Saulve on the other, the workmen commenced their labours, taking advantage of a *hollow way* they fortunately discovered, which in a great measure formed the first parallel opposite to the horn-work of the place. Every moment was then employed by the Austrian General FERRARIS, who superintended the formation of the trenches, in enlarging and rendering that parallel sufficiently wide to admit the guns as well as the carts and sledges employed for the conveyance of the shells and ammunition. The fascines for the banquettes were placed, the mortar and cannon batteries marked out and numbered, and proper embrassures for the heavy guns were formed as the parapets were constructed; on the 18th of June the bombardment of the town commenced, which was answered briskly by the garrison.

The privates ſcarce compaſs *a peep* at their camp,
Yet no toil can their courage or chearfulneſs damp.
The burden * and heat of the day they ſuſtain, [plain.
With their hearts in the cauſe, and would ſcorn to com-
Brave fellows! your temples the laurels ſhould bind
Were your merits recorded: the chieftain † we find,
At price of your valour exalting his name,
And gaining his niche in the temple of Fame.
You lament our loſt guns, but my friend, underſtand
'Twas a ſtory trump'd up by that *dreamer* FERRAND.
Who judg'd that the *buz* of a deſp'rate ſortie ‡
Would ſerve for a wonder, nine days, á Paris.

* The Britiſh guards, as it was frequently remarked, could do more work than any of the troops employed in the trenches, during the ſiege of Valenciennes. This was, however, eaſily accounted for; they had *moſt* of them been accuſtomed to coal heaving on the river Thames; and were thereby enured to every ſpecies of bodily labour.

† " The chieftain triumphs, and the chieftain dies,
" And honours wait upon his life or death;
" But then the humble ſoldier, he who falls
" And dies unnotic'd by the voice of Fame,
" Is the dear object of ſome anxious breaſt;
" For him ſome parent, wife, or child prefers
" The daily pray'r.
" Think you not the heart
" That beats beneath the humble tunic feels
" The loſs of relatives with pangs as great
" As that which throbs beneath the richeſt toga?"

‡ A party of the French troops, in garriſon at Valenciennes, were ſtated to have ſallied forth upon the trenches on the 17th of June, and to have ſpiked up 13 of the Britiſh guns. Such a report was, it is true, given in to the National Convention, and inſerted in the Paris papers. But ſo far from any ſortie having been *even attempted*, the rifle men, poſted in the corn fields between the works of the beſiegers and the town, were never once driven in during the ſiege. Had they ventured to approach, they would have met with a moſt warm reception. Strong covering parties were conſtantly poſted in different parts of the parallels to protect the workmen, with ſtrict injunctions not to fire a ſhot, but if

And TRUTH not a line, as he knew, could advance
To cheer for a moment dispirited France.

they perceived their enemies approaching, to remain perfectly quiet, and suffering them to reach the trenches, to leap the parapet, and charge briskly with the bayonet; while large detachments of cavalry, which were constantly formed behind the ruins of *Marlis*, and the battered buildings on the other extremity of the first parallel, by charging over loose fascines, would also have *at once* borne down upon both flanks of the republicans. In that case, instead of spiking up *the British guns*, few of them would have been suffered to escape with the sad tidings to Ferrand.

What gave rise to the report of this *memorable sortie* was, the appearance of a small party of the garrison, immediately after their usual *dinner hour*, (when the firing from the ramparts was always *redoubled*) drawn up, under cover of their guns. The alarm was given. When the Hanoverians, then on duty, contrary to their orders, began a useless fire of musquetry over the parapet of the trenches, upon which the reconnoitering heroes of the garrison, after discharging their pieces in the air, took refuge once again within their formidable walls. As a Frenchman's pen is formed in such an extraordinary manner, that it naturally glides off into *gasconade*, we cannot wonder that Ferrand, in his dispatches to his lords and masters, should spike up 13 pieces of artillery, but must rather admire his humility and moderation, in marking down so insignificant a number, for the addition of a single cypher would certainly have given a much higher finish to the tale.

It would be deemed by most readers tedious and uninteresting to enumerate minutely the daily occurrences that took place during the siege. While the trenches were forming, they were indeed invariably the same. The first parallel completed, approaches were made by means of small trenches, called *zigzags*, from the form in which they were constructed; from the most advanced point of which, a second line was marked out, in which direction a wide trench was formed, while the incessant fire kept up from the *first parallel*, protected the men at work upon the second, and, when that was finished, the cannons, mortars, and howitzers were advanced, while *a third* was pushed on in like manner to within about 60 yards of the crest of the glacis. The new works, when it was necessary to break ground, were uniformly constructed in the night; and the garrison, by throwing from their mortars luminous balls, affording them a very clear and steady light, were enabled to ascertain in what direction they should aim their shells. A few shots from the trenches, however, usually extinguished them.

Several instances of the most intrepid courage, and total disregard of personal security, were daily witnessed. The following anecdote affords, perhaps, one of the most striking that occurred during the siege. A

Her rulers, however, have consciences supple,
And *gull* is the word, *pour amuser les peuples.*
Our foes night and day keep us fully employ'd,
And the town must, we fear, be completely destroy'd.
Each quarter in turns has been noted on fire,
Yet their steady defence we're compell'd to admire.

private, in the Austrian corps of bombardiers, perceiving that a live shell from the town had fallen close to several loaded ones placed in the trenches for immediate use, not far too from a magazine *of powder*, was cool enough at the moment, and had his thoughts sufficiently about him, to gather up a handful of the earth, and with it deadening the *portfire*, cut it off, ere it could communicate with the combustible matter; thereby snatching himself and his companions from a sudden death, and saving the depot of ammunition. He was rewarded by promotion to the rank of *Serjeant*, and received the *first* order of merit. The consequences of large shells, upon explosion, were sometimes dreadful; but a want of caution was usually discernable, where they took any very marked effect. It was extremely difficult to keep the men *on covering parties* (as they had in fact no active labour to engage their minds) from sleeping. They would often gather in numbers under little sheds, which they from time to time had formed with loose fascines, and it was *there* they suffered most severely. One night, six privates of the guards, had discovered in the second parallel an excavation in the bank, made use of at the commencement of the siege as a temporary powder magazine. It was supposed to have been *bomb-proof*, but a thirteen-inch shell, while those ill-fated and infatuated men were sleeping there, came slanting over the summit of the opposite parapet, and forcing its way in at the very entrance of the cave, tore them in a moment limb from limb.

About the same time (on the 9th of July) an unaccountable explosion was heard in the camp of the 11th light dragoons. It was found, that one of the soldiers had discovered a 13 inch shell near the village of Marlis, *the feuse* of which had been extinguished in its fall; he had wheeled it up before him to his tent, and having been confined a prisoner in the rear guard, contrived to have his shell still with him. For several days his chief employment had consisted in picking out the *powder with his bayonet*; a spark of fire was thus at length produced by the repeated friction of the steel against the *shell*, and in a moment it went off, carrying away the miserable sufferer's legs close to the hip. In about ten minutes he expired in agonies; one of the mangled limbs was thrown against the sentry at the tent door with such violence, as to fell him to the ground.

Their cannoneers, wonderful judgment have ſhewn,
And their ſhells with the niceſt preciſion are thrown.
From our camp, the tremendous bombardment each night,
Affords a moſt awful, yet beautiful ſight.
While nimbly the ſly ſkipping howitzer flies,
The ſolemn Thirteen ſlowly moves thro' the ſkies.
Red hot ſhot, *riochet*, and the hoarſe twenty-four,
Vociſ'rous in concert all horribly roar.
Their church*, whence ſo clearly our camps they ſur-[vey'd,
For its lofty pre-eminence dearly has paid.
The Thirteens their way to it ſpeedily found,
And quicker than light'ning its tow'r kiſs'd the ground.

* The largeſt church in Valenciennes, a moſt beautiful and elegant piece of Gothic architecture, was entirely demoliſhed; the mortars having been pointed againſt it from the very commencement of their firing, as the garriſon, from its lofty tower, commanded a view of the ſurrounding camps, and could diſcover plainly the motions of the beſieging army. The barracks in that quarter of the town, near the gate of Lille, were reduced to a mere heap of aſhes, and being very extenſive, had, when on fire, a moſt awful, and tremendous appearance.

Humanity experienced many a heart-felt pang, when reflection dwelt upon the *neceſſity* of aiming the deſtructive ſhell at the very ſpot, where it was known our fellow creatures were in crowds collected; endeavouring to extinguiſh the devouring flames. Alas! how many of the peaceful inhabitants muſt at thoſe moments, compelled to remain pent up within their walls, have loſt their lives by lingering and excruciating wounds! What a diſmal proſpect too was open to the ſad ſurvivors; doomed to behold their former habitations levelled with the ground; the aged parents, *perhaps inſtantaneouſly* deprived, by the ſplinters of the very bomb which had conſumed their property, of thoſe children, to whoſe induſtrious toil, themſelves now paſt all labour, they looked up *ſolely* for their daily bread. Ever too in apprehenſion of the *fatal ſtorm*, when the rapacious ſoldier, freed from all reſtraint, hardened by ſcenes of carnage, and become more ſavage than the half-ſtarved tyger, is at once let looſe to glut his thirſty ſoul in pillage, ſlaughter, and *every ſpecies* of exceſs. Of all the various articles contained in the ſwelled-out and lengthened catalogue of WARS *dire horrors*, none ſurely can exceed the *ſufferings* of the *defenceleſs citizens* in a bombarded fortreſs; expoſed to the deſtructive *ſhell*, or buried in dark caſe-

Condé* to the Auſtrians has fall'n by blockade,
And the garriſon pris'ners of war have been made.

mates, and deprived *of air*, till the parched tongue calls feebly upon death to end ſuch complicated miſeries.

"O would the warrior think, when he has graſped,
"With ſanguine hand, the flag of victory;
"When he ſurveys the victims of his valour
"Piled up before him, he has made affliction
"Stalk with coloſſal ſtrides o'er ſcenes unnumber'd,
"And chang'd abodes of bliſs to haunts of woe:
"To his rapt eye the blooming flowers would fade,
"Strewed is his path, to hail his car of triumph;
"The fragrant incenſe loſe its power to charm,
"And choral ſongs ſeem drowned in piercing ſhrieks."

* The troops in garriſon at Condé, after having made ſeveral ineffectual attempts to eſtabliſh batteries with a view of diſlodging the beſiegers, in order to procure, by incurſions into the neighbouring villages, a temporary ſupply of freſh proviſions; ſurrendered at diſcretion on the 10th of July, having been long in the utmoſt diſtreſs, and reduced to live upon eleven ounces of bread, two ounces of *ſalted* horſe fleſh, and a very trifling quantity of rice per diem. The ſcarcity was owing, it was ſaid, to DUMOURIEZ having drawn out from the magazines of the town the greateſt part of the proviſions for the ſupply of his army when at the camp of Maulde. On the 13th, the French garriſon, amounting to about 3,650 men (nearly 350 remaining ſick behind them) marched out as *priſoners of war*, after enduring a blockade of two and ſeventy days. They had, by means of *rockets*, and other ſignals, frequently informed the governor of Valenciennes of their ſituation, and, when the wind was in a quarter favouring their views, letters were ſent by ſmall *balloons*, many of which falling ſhort of their intended deſtination, were found by the beſiegers. Proviſions for *not more* than eight and forty hours remained when they ſurrendered.

The guns found upon the ramparts, being moſtly two and thirty pounders, were removed to the batteries conſtructed in the 3d parallel before the town of Valenciennes: the more effectually enabling the beſiegers to fire point blank upon the works, in order to create a practicable breach. The trenches were advanced ſo near the horn-work of the place, that the Tiralleurs and rifle-men could eaſily, from behind the ſand-bags placed upon the parapet of the 3d parallel, diſcover and take aim at the republicans poſted in their *covert way*. It was by no means an uncommon circumſtance, at one moment, to hear the opponent

Good news from Valenciennes I ſoon ſhall relate,
As *Ferrand*, tho' *no prophet*, may gueſs at its fate.

parties converſing familiarly together, and *the next* to behold them inveterately firing upon each other.

Air guns were made uſe of at that period by a corps in the ſervice of his Imperial Majeſty, conſtructed on a new and curious principle of mechaniſm; the ramrods acting upon them as pumps, to load the barrels. The inventor, if he ſtill exiſts, is kept, as it is ſaid, in cloſe confinement *at Vienna*, leſt the ſecret ſhould by any means tranſpire.

On the 16th of July, a French officer, with a flag of truce, appeared advancing from the town: all firing ceaſed, of courſe, *immediately*; and it was ſuppoſed the governor had ſent him out with propoſals of capitulation. His buſineſs was, however, merely to obtain permiſſion for a lady (Madame Metiour) who was indiſpoſed, to paſs to a place of ſafety through the camp of the beſiegers. During the ſhort period of tranquillity that then enſued, the French officers, and thoſe of the allies, on duty at the time, advanced between the trenches and the town, and talked familiarly together, when it appeared from all accounts, that FERRAND's determination was to hold out till a practicable breach was made, and *then*, unleſs CUSTINE advanced to his relief, to treat with the beſiegers.

It had been well remembered that a trumpeter, in the dreſs of the Imperialiſts, had paſſed through the encampments, with a letter apparently from *Cobourg* to *Ferrand*. The circumſtance was talked of at the time, and the allies now learnt, that thay had been deceived by the fluency with which he ſpoke the German language. The fellow was, *in fact*, a meſſenger diſpatched by Gen. CUSTINE; he dextrouſly managed to paſs from poſt to poſt, and ultimately gained the town, *ſounding* his trumpet, and producing boldly his *diſpatches*. In like manner, he alſo returned *unſuſpected*. A tremendous fire *on both ſides* followed this ſhort ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities. And when the *diſmounting guns* were placed upon the batteries of the 3d parallel, a ſecond ſummons was ſent to Gen. FERRAND, to which a moſt laconic anſwer was returned, written, as it was ſaid, upon the back of the Duke of YORK's own letter, viz. "*Cuſtine repondira.*"

As the beſiegers had now puſhed on their works ſo cloſe upon the covert way, before the horn-work of the place, that bombs of any ſize could not with any *ſure effect* be thrown; ſplinters of ſhells and ſtones were often ſubſtituted by both parties. The crimſon banner ſtill continued ſtreaming in the air, in token of defiance, and it was ſeriouſly apprehended, that the enthuſiaſm of the commiſſioners, *Couchon* and *Debrie*, at that time in the town, would induce FERRAND to procraſtinate his obſtinate defence, till the town was wreſted from his hands *by* STORM.

He has hitherto look'd for relief from Custine,
Who now for some time past at Paris has been,
Awaiting the honours of Dame Guillotine.
The verses enclos'd, at your leisure peruse,
They'll answer, perhaps, a dull hour to amuse.
With my love, present copies to Emma and Sue;
Duty calls, so accept of this hasty adieu.

Verses written by an Officer when on Duty in the Trenches before Valenciennes, enclosed in the preceding Letter.

WHERE thund'ring cannon vomit smoke and fire,
Where balls and shells fly whistling o'er my head;
Say, will the Muse her votary inspire?
Say, will she deign 'midst scenes like these to tread?

Erst was I wont to hail thee in the shade,
The crystal stream meand'ring at my feet;
Or seated by my lovely nut-brown maid,
Thy presence cheer'd me in the still retreat!

Where peace, attended by her smiling train,
On Thames's banks, delighted seem'd to stray,
Near Runnymede *securely* held her reign,
And joy'd to see the sporting heifers play!

These days, these halcyon days! again shall come,
But now I woo thee to a diff'rent scene;
Attend where sounds the discord-stirring drum,
Attend 'midst death and havoc, maid serene!

Where Desolation shakes his gory locks,
And under foot Bellona * Ceres treads;
Her hopes the hell-born Fury grinning mocks,
And blood amidst her promis'd harvest sheds.

There, where your batter'd heap of stones † is pil'd,
Once dwelt perhaps, a fond and happy pair!
Perhaps a prattling infant sweetly smil'd,
And lent its little aid to banish care.

But they were slaves, so said aspiring France,
And freedom offer'd from the cannons mouth;
Bidding her Democratic Sons advance,
And spread her principles from North to South.

Can slaves to wickedness ‡ be titled free?
Can miscreants wallowing in their country's blood,
Bask in thy smiles, celestial Liberty?
Goddess, propitious only *to the good!*

See where their hapless Monarch slaughter'd lies!
Hear the wild anguish of their captive Queen,
Each morn beholds new shapes of horror rise,
And *Fear* and *Death* divide the blood-stain'd scene.

* The lines of encampment, surrounding Valenciennes, were drawn through large fields of standing corn nearly ripe. The farmers' hopes were thus instantaneously blasted upon the investiture of the place, and the waving grain trodden down, and left to wither on the ground.

† Ruins at *Marlis*, the nearest village to the town of Valenciennes; formerly famous for a *Royal* manufactory having been established there for nails, and many thousand pounds worth of iron was destroyed when it was burnt by FERRAND's orders, upon the allies advancing after the battle of Famars.

‡ This cannot surely be *misconstrued* into an illiberal remark upon a whole nation. Every man of common humanity beheld the sanguinary atrocities committed by the regicidal rulers of the Convention, at that period, with loathing and disgust.

England, my country! that I e'er ſhould hear
  Theſe wretches, urg'd by envy and by pride,
Threaten their banners in thy plains to rear,
  And on thine own indignant channel ride.

Britannia ſmiling ſaid, " My ſons, go forth;
  " Inſtruct them to reſpect our arms, our laws,
" Though ſcarce my ſea-girt children's notice worth,
  " Go ſtem their Pride, in Freedom's *genuine* Cauſe."

Her ſons obey'd, and victory mark'd their way;
  In Gallia's air behold the Union wave;
And deathleſs laurels ſhall their toils repay,
  Who *wound* to *heal*, and who *ſubdue* to *ſave*.

LETTER VIII.

CAMP AT SOLTAIN, *August* 5, 1793.

Storming of the Hornwork.—Consequent surrender of Valenciennes.—Effects of the Bombardment.—General Movement of the allied Powers.

ALL is hush'd, 'tis again calm tranquillity's reign,
And whistling, the peasant stumps over the plain.
So recently robb'd of the fruits of his toil,
Rejoicing, turns up the light fertiliz'd soil.
After six weeks hard fighting, as ever was known,
Valenciennes, dear-bought conquest! at length is our own.
So briskly a battery from Briquet * had play'd,
That the Carmagnols, sorely annoy'd and dismay'd,
Could no longer to stand to their guns be persuaded,
Perceiving their ramparts were thus enfiladed.
The sapper † beyond the third parallel stole,
And the miner advanc'd like the mischief-fraught mole;

* A battery had been established near the Village of Briquet, by the advice of Major CONGREVE, which so completely enfiladed the ramparts of the place, that the garrison, it was said, lost 500 men the first day it was opened; and no bribe FERRAND could offer, would afterwards induce the Republicans to stand to their guns, as indeed it became certain death for any of them to appear in that direction.

† Valenciennes was the first town that had for many years been regularly besieged, and every mysterious invention gleaned from the art of war, was put in practice to reduce the place. Exclusive of the three formidable parallels, by which the besiegers had so nearly reached the crest of the glacis, they now advanced their works still further, and not venturing to *break ground*, exposed as they then were to the incessant fire of musquetry, continually pouring upon them from the covert way, the mode of *sap* was *thus* adopted :—A large gabion, above seven feet high, was pushed over the parapet of the trenches, and the sapper advancing armed with an iron helmet and curiasse, against the fire of rifle-men, rolled

His progreſs was cloſe to the covert way pac'd,
And the globes* of compreſſion in order were plac'd,

it on before him, as a protection to his perſon, while he filled, as expeditiouſly as poſſible, ſmaller gabions with earth, placing them cloſe together, in a line, formed alſo *parallel* to the trenches; other gabions were in like manner puſhed forwards and arranged, till the approach was formed as near to the glacis as was deemed neceſſary by FERRARIS. One of the ſappers at Valenciennes had been at the ſieges of *Iſmael* and *Bellegrade*. They were, he ſaid, paid very highly for each gabion that they filled, as, when not more than ſix or eight were employed, the ſervice was ſo imminently dangerous, that they expected two or three *to fall*.

*The mines being now complete, and globes of compreſſion placed in them (ſuch as were for the firſt time uſed by the Auſtrians at the ſieges of Bellegrade and Iſmael) formed of iron, each containing 55 hundred weight of gunpowder, intended to clear away, by their exploſion, any counter mines of the Republicans; orders were iſſued to the troops on the 25th of July, as the firſt ſtep neceſſary to be taken, to ſtorm the covert way, and if poſſible to effect a lodgment on the hornwork of the place. Theſe detachments, each of 900 men, were deſtined for the different attacks; one to be made upon the ſalient angle of the ravelin of the half baſtion on the right, and one on the flêche. The troops employed upon the right were divided into three parts, turning the flêche to the right and left, while the *centre* diviſion received orders to advance in front. Detachments of the Britiſh Hanoverians and Heſſians formed Gen. ABERCROMBIE's column, deſtined for the attack of the ſalient angle of the ravelin; 150 men, of the brigade of guards, compoſed the *van*, under the command of Col. LEIGH, of the 3d regiment, commanding the battalion formed from the flank companies of the brigade of guards. The other columns were compoſed of Auſtrians, and the whole was conducted under the command of the Imperial Lieutenant General ERBACK. The different detachments had been previouſly poſted in their proper directions, concealed by the approach formed beyond the third parallel *by ſap*. When the laſt report of the exploſion of the mines was heard, about 9 o'clock at night, they *huzza'd*, and darted forwards with an impetuoſity which nothing could reſiſt; unprepared eſpecially as the French were, and little expecting ſo prompt a viſit.

The havoc and ſlaughter that enſued, was dreadful! In an advanced and inſulated work, an Auſtrian regiment found, upon ſwimming acroſs the water, a large detachment of their enemies, and immediately, without diſtinction, put every ſoul there to the ſword. The ditch of the covert way was only carried *juſt in time*, to prevent the French from ſpringing the mines, which had not been within the reach of the globular balls

Thus having this firſt and great object obtain'd,
The horn-work was order'd by ſtorm to be gain'd.
The roſter to LEIGH had conſign'd the command,
Who led on to glory a ſpirited band.
Till the third mine was ſprung, in the trenches perdu
They lay, and then over the parapet flew.
In diſorder retreating, their foes they perceiv'd,
And purſued with an ardor, can ſcarce be believ'd.
Conſid'ring the point gain'd, our loſs, though not great,
Yet TOLLEMACHE* ſincerely we mourn thy hard fate.
Tow'rds the cloſe of the ev'ning, a thirteen inch ſhell,
Hov'ring long o'er the parallel, burſt as it fell.

of compreſſion. Several were diſcovered *loaded*, and a miner was taken in the very act of applying a lighted match to the train communicating with them. The man was offered *quarter*, provided he would point out the direction of the other ſubterraneous works, and if any credit may be given to ſeveral officers who were preſent, after having afforded them every information in his power, ſome of the wretches, attached to the victorious column, butchered him in *cold blood*. Engliſhmen are, by nature, brave and generous, and will therefore find it difficult to perſuade themſelves, that human nature could be, *in any ſhape*, ſo ſhockingly depraved, had they however ſeen thoſe ſavages, who always form a part of every German army, they would believe them capable of every atrocious and wanton act of cruelty.

A ſubterraneous paſſage was then diſcovered, leading from the covert way to the hornwork, and no troops appearing to interrupt the *workmen*, a lodgment was inſtantly made; thus, before the dawn of day, the Auſtrians had not only ſcreened themſelves from the fire of the cavalierre battery, by means of gabions filled with earth (and ſome of them, as was at the time reported, with the dead bodies of the enemy) but had alſo conſtructed a redoubt for the purpoſe of battering in breach the *countergarde*, a work between the hornwork and the body of the place.

The Britiſh had their full ſhare, both in the dangers and the glory of the night; and, to adopt a phraſe made uſe of *jocoſely* by an officer, when departing for that duty, in reply to a queſtion from Prince ERNEST, "They gathered freſh laurels upon the hornwork of Valenciennes."

* The loſs of the allies amounted to not more that 150 men, in killed and wounded. Unfortunately, however, Enſign TOLLEMACHE, a young

Appearing to ſingle him out as its prey,
And tore him from life amidſt glory away.

officer of the guards, of very great profeſſional merit, and very deſervedly regretted by his brother ſoldiers, was killed by the exploſion of a *random* ſhell, thrown accidentally into the third parallel, and perhaps the only ſhell that fell there that night. Underſtanding the German language, he had been left as orderly officer to the Auſtrian general, ſuperintending the working parties in the trenches. Capt. WARD, of the 1ſt regiment of guards, and Lieut. DEWAR, of the 14th regiment of the line, were the only Britiſh officers wounded, the latter very ſeverely. He had accompanied the ſtorming party as a volunteer, as did alſo Capt. WHETHAM, of the guards. The total loſs of Col. LEIGH's detachment amounted only to 14 *wounded*, including non-commiſſioned officers. The Croats, in front of CLAIRFAIT's camp at Mont Anzin, carried at the ſame time ſeveral detached works; while the Hanoverians kept up the whole night an inceſſant fire from the battery of briquet, advancing at times to the very creſt of the glacis. The hornwork having been carried with ſuch wonderful facility, turned out to be of the moſt eſſential conſequence, as it was afterwards found to be entirely undermined; the hopes of the beſiegers might have been poſſibly fruſtrated at the very inſtant of apparent ſucceſs, had it been taken in any way but by ſurpriſe. The conſequences muſt have been moſt dreadful, had the French miner ſucceeded when about to apply the fatal match to the *train*, which would inſtantaneouſly have blown the ſtorming party, formed upon the excavated ground, to atoms. The gazette accounts ſtated, that the moſt *dangerous*, as well as the moſt *laborious* part of the ſiege, fell upon the Imperialiſts, which the ſubſequent return of the number they had loſt, apparently confirmed. It muſt, however, be conſidered, that the Britiſh formed but a very ſmall part of the beſieging army, and that their loſs of 90 *men*, was proportionably as great, if we conſider the diſparity of their numbers, as that of the Auſtrians computed at 1,300. That no troops could endure more labour than the Britiſh, the *Auſtrian engineers* were well convinced, as they *invariably* placed them where it was of moſt conſequence to form the new approaches with diſpatch; nay, ſo little reſpite was allowed, that the very men who came off duty with the working parties in the morning, uſually found themſelves in orders for covering parties in the evening; and, at the commencement of the ſiege, the camp has frequently been left without a ſoldier, except the *rear* and *quarter guards*, which were generally furniſhed by the officers' batt-men and ſervants. It ſeems ſcarcely neceſſary to remark, that the troops on duty in the trenches muſt have been *equally* expoſed, when we ſtate, that the Britiſh were at all times as much advanced in *thoſe trenches* as their brave allies.

All night our hoarſe batt'ries continued to play,
But our ſummons* was gladly receiv'd the next day.
FERRAND upon terms to ſurrender† agreed,
If his troops into France were allow'd to proceed.
Firſt, during the war, men and officers both
Being ſolemnly bound *to diſarm* by an oath‡.
The time was then fix'd for their marching away,
And too weak is my muſe ſuch a brilliant diſplay
To deſcribe, or to paint, the ſuperb cavalcade.
A better appearance ſure troops never made.
The Bohemians, and Auſtrians, *uncas'd*, were as clean,
And as well-looking ſoldiers as ever were ſeen.

* On the 26th, his Royal Highneſs the Duke of YORK diſpatched a third ſummons to the governor, and one to the Municipality of Valenciennes, offering moſt favourable terms; and aſſuring them, that unleſs they entered *then* into negociations, all future avenues of communication would be cloſed, and the *fatal ſtorm* inevitably and immediately enſue. To this, the anſwer from the town was ſuch as cauſed a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities for four and twenty hours, while terms of capitulation were drawn up and mutually diſcuſſed. They were ſigned on the 28th; conſiſting of twenty-five original, and four additional articles, by which it was determined, That the garriſon ſhould march out with military honors by the gate of *Cambray*, ground their arms near Briquet, and leaving behind them their field pieces, as well as the heavy guns upon the ramparts, ammunition, ſtores, &c. be permitted to return to the interior, upon the officers paſſing their paroles, and the ſoldiers being bound, by oath, not to ſerve againſt his Imperial Majeſty, or his Allies, during the continuance of the war. After ſome little delay, on account of the uſual demand of covered waggons, and the diſpoſal of the Commiſſioners COUCHON and DE BRIE (who were at length conſidered as a part of the garriſon) hoſtages were exchanged, and the beſiegers took poſſeſſion of the out-works, the half-moon, crown-work, and the counterguard. The grenadiers of the Britiſh guards, occupied *as the poſt of Honour*, the works on their ſide of the gate of Cambray.

† Valenciennes capitulated July the 28th.

‡ Which oath was violated, as many of them were taken priſoners the 9th of Auguſt, near Bourlon.

And the Britiſh Dragoons coming up from Condé,
Encreas'd not a little the pride of the day.
To be ſure, when the French iſſued forth from the gate,
The contraſt beheld was moſt ſtrikingly great.
For I think, in my life-time my eyes never yet
Beheld a more filthy and beggarly ſet.
Thro' our ranks by Famars, and tow'rds Cambray* they
paſs'd,
Ev'ry one that approach'd, ſomething worſe than the laſt.
In Valenciennes the objects that burſt on our view,
Deep ſighs from thy boſom *humanity* drew.
By our firing, the houſes † ſo batter'd had been,
In parts ſcarce one brick on another was ſeen;

* The Garriſon of Valenciennes, when the Beſiegers took up their ground, inveſting the place, conſiſted of	11,000 men
They marched out fit for duty on the 1ſt of Auguſt	4,000
Sick and wounded — — — —	2,500
And muſt, therefore, have loſt in killed, wounded, and by the fever, including a few left behind in the hoſpitals, — — — — —	4,500
To account for their original number —	11,000 men

143,800 ſhot and ſhell were thrown into the town during the ſiege. The expence of a 13 inch ſhell, including powder, is about 5l.; of a 24 pound ſhot, about 2l. ſterling.

† Mr. PHILIP RYAN, an Engliſh gentleman, long ſettled in the town, and who was there, with his family, the whole ſix weeks of the ſiege, declared, that upon an average, (and a calculation had been made,) every third houſe had been *battered down*, and that *not one* had eſcaped from the effects of ſhot or ſhell. Upon the inveſtiture of the place, he applied to the Governor for permiſſion to remove his family, ſuppoſing that, *as* an Engliſhman, his plea would have been admitted. FERRAND, however, informed him, that he was welcome, if he choſe to run the riſque of being fired upon, both by the beſiegers, and from the ramparts of the place, as no flag of truce would be permitted to precede him!

While baſking for air,* and to fever a prey,
Men, women, and children, obſtructed our way.
And many poor wretches, who gaz'd on the light,
For a moment breath'd free, then expir'd in our ſight.
Perceiving ſuch heaps of the dying, and dead,
The pleaſure, deriv'd from our victory, fled.
For thy miſeries war, there, alas! is no cure,
And ſoldiers ſuch horrible ſights muſt endure.
Yet they who eſcap'd like true French, *ſans ſoucis*,
By the wretchedneſs round them, unmov'd, full of glee,
With ſhrugs and grimaces, would talk of a ſhell,
And call a twelve pounder a mere *Bagatelle.*
For EMMA ſome lace, as was promis'd, I bought,
Then muſing the Camp again heavily ſought.
Rejoicing ſincerely, to quit I confeſs,
For a period ſuch ſcenes of heart-rending diſtreſs!

* From having been ſo long, and ſo cloſely confined in caſemates, which were at Valenciennes miſerably bad, a dreadful fever raged amongſt the inhabitants, and ſwept them off by hundreds. The freſh air had ſuch an effect upon many of thoſe ſufferers, whoſe exiſtence had been in miſery prolonged till the ſurrender of the place, that they were ſeen expiring in the ſtreet, the moment they were expoſed to it.

Amongſt the various details of miſeries endured during the ſiege, the inhabitants told of a ſmall Convent, where the Nuns had taken refuge in one of the cellars; a thirteen inch ſhell piercing through the roof, found its way to the very ſpot where they were aſſembled, and inſtantaneouſly deſtroyed, or miſerably mangled the whole ſiſterhood, to the number of fifteen.

Some Britiſh Officers, paſſing through the ſtreets immediately after the town had been taken poſſeſſion of, in the name of his Imperial Majeſty, obſerved a Bookſeller's Shop upon the *grand Place*, appearing ſo neat, and ſo little damaged, that they entered it; and in the courſe of converſation, congratulated the owner upon having eſcaped ſo well. Alas, Gentlemen, replied the poor fellow, with tears riſing at the moment, the very firſt ſhell thrown into the town, deprived me, in an inſtant, of my wife and two daughters.

Around buſtling faces beſpeak preparation,
And a grand *coup* we hear is in full agitation.
That CLAIRFAIT'S* choice troops; will lead preſently
forth,
And with fury aſſault all our foes in the North.
To Soltain we muſt bid an unwilling adieu,
And give up all the excellent feeds at Eſtreux.
Fame tells, (as in ſieges ſo well we ſucceed,)
We ſhall after this march, againſt Dunkirk proceed,
But ſure, while in force, 'twould be more worth our
while,
To endeavour *at leaſt*, to be maſter of Lille.†

* The Allies, in every period of the preſent war, have, in *their Councils*, been noted for laying down moſt admirable plans; but, at the ſame time, have evinced a want of Generalſhip in carrying thoſe meaſures into execution. No one inſtance can, perhaps, be more forcibly adduced to prove the truth of this aſſertion, than the unaccountable manner in which their attack upon the Republican Army of the North had been procraſtinated, 'till the enemy procured the moſt accurate intelligence of the intended movement of their opponents. Granting it *neceſſary* for the *Beſieging Army* to have remained before Valenciennes till the town had been evacuated, and that the advance of the *Covering Army* had, on that account, been unavoidably *retarded;* allowing even that the pompous diſplay of Hungarian Grenadiers, Bohemians, and the choiceſt troops of the Imperial and Britiſh forces, at the gate through which FERRAND'S miſerable and ragged garriſon was to paſs, could anſwer any good purpoſe; there ſurely was no reaſon for ſo fine a body of men remaining in total idleneſs for *five days*, after that raree-ſhow had been exhibited to the gaping inhabitants of the adjacent Flemiſh towns.

† As the reſult of the conſultations, held amongſt the Chieftains of the Coaleſced Armies, would too frequently tranſpire, it was well known, that the moſt experienced officers gave it as their decided opinion, immediately upon the capitulation of Valenciennes, that the poſſeſſion of Lille was abſolutely neceſſary to enſure ſucceſs to every future plan of operations. Its ſurrender would, there is little doubt, have at once terminated the war on the Continent, as the inferior Barrier towns were all, more or leſs, dependant upon that formidable fortreſs, and muſt ultimately have fallen, one after the other, into the hands of the Coaleſced

However, our gen'rals, wise men without doubt,
Are at all times aware what they're going about.
Our Province alone is, I'm happy to say,
Implicitly their *dread commands* to obey;
But the Drum Major waits, so in haste I must end,
Remaining, believe me, sincerely your *Friend.*

Powers. The road to Paris might easily have then been pointed out, for Lille is at once mistress of the Netherlands, and, as Louis the XIVth emphatically called it, the surest key to the capital of France, distant from it only fifty-two short leagues. Surely 200,000 men (and full as many could have been, at that period, brought together by Prince Cobourg) elated with their recent conquests, were fully equal to the arduous undertaking; especially as the garrison was known to be extremely weak, and the inhabitants had so much at stake, and had also so recently smarted under the horrors of a bombardment, that they would have used every effort in their power to forward the views of the Allies.

The French Army of the North was also at that period so disorganized, that it could not have made any impression upon the immense force Prince Cobourg would have formed to cover the besiegers.

The bombardment of Mayence ceased only three days previous to that of Valenciennes; and on the 23d of July, the King of Prussia, in the name of the Germanic Empire, obtained possession of that important fortress, upon terms nearly similar to those granted by the Duke of York to General Ferrand. The army of Catalonia still continued before Bellegarde, and a formidable fleet had been dispatched, by his Catholic Majesty, to co-operate in the Mediterranean with Lord Hood. Frequent and very serious engagements had occured in the vicinity of Nice; but his Sardinian Majesty, by his treaty with Great Britain, having obtained a subsidy of 200,000l. sterling, was enabled to keep on foot an army of 50,000 men, not only covering his own dominions, but rendering him a formidable enemy to the Convention.

LETTER IX.

MENIN, *August* 19, 1793.

Circuitous Detour of the Allies, in order to encircle the French Army of the North.—Failure of the Attempt.—Unfortunate Division of the British and Imperialists.—Affair of LINCELLES.

SUCH deeds as I now am about to rehearſe,
Deſerve, you'll exclaim, a much loftier verſe;
But 'tis eaſier by far, to compoſe and invent,
By an Engliſh *fire-ſide*, than in TROTTER's *bell-tent*.
I'll therefore, without further preface, proceed,
And, my friend, pray for once take the will for the deed.
The batt-horſes, idle ſo long at Soltain,
Were aſtoniſh'd to feel ſunks and ſods once again.
And heavily trudg'd on, their hard lot bemoaning,
Loaded up to their ears, and moſt piteouſly groaning.
St. Aubert* then we reach'd by a little detour,
Proceeding, without loſs of time, to Crevecœur.

* On the ſixth of Auguſt, the grand ſcheme which had been ſo long in agitation took place. The brigade of heavy cavalry, then brought up to join the Duke's army, conſiſted of the royal regiment of horſe guards, or blues; 3d dragoon guards; royals; Iniſkillings; and Scotch greys; the king's dragoon guards having been left behind to garriſon Oſtend.

CLAIRFAIT advanced with three very ſtrong columns upon the entrenchments in front of *Cambray*, at the *camp de Cæſar*, while a detachment of Auſtrians, with the Britiſh, Heſſians, and Hanoverians, under his Royal Highneſs the Duke of YORK, filed round, by forced marches, with a view of paſſing the Scheldt, and of taking up a poſition to cut off the retreat of the diviſion of the northern army, occupying the heights of Bourlon, upon which the troops aſſaulted in the camp de Cæſar by CLAIRFAIT would naturally have *fallen* back, and would, in that caſe, have found there a ſuperior force, formed in readineſs to receive them; thus placed between two fires, they muſt have grounded their arms, or have been cut to pieces.

The corps formed under his Royal Highneſs the Duke of YORK, when encamped near the village of St. Aubert, conſiſted, excluſive of the Bri-

After crossing the bone of contention, push'd on,
A position to gain, near the Bois de Bourlon*.

tish, of 7 battalions of Hanoverian infantry, and six squadrons of cavalry, 2 battalions, and 5 squadrons of Hessians, and 4 battalions and 10 squadrons of Austrians. They crossed the Scheldt on the 8th at *Manieres* and *Crevecœur*. During their march, they discovered a body of the enemy's cavalry, threatening their right flank, which was, however, driven back by a few shots from the Austrian light artillery. A squadron of the 15th light dragoons under Col. CHURCHILL, receiving intelligence of some French hussars being in a neighbouring village, rode on, and took them by surprise, making, after a rapid charge, in which several of the Republicans were killed, 2 officers, and 44 privates prisoners.

* At day-break on the 8th, the Duke's army advanced in three columns against the French, supposed to have been encamped upon the heights of Bourlon. They had, however, it was found, retreated, and, as it was in vain for the infantry to attempt to overtake them, the cavalry were called for, and the British *heavy brigade* pushed on, in hopes of unsheathing, for the first time, their broad swords, against the enemies of their country. In addition to the weight each *heavy troop horse* carries on a march (computed at the least at 20 *stone*) they were then loaded with *picquet posts*, long *scythes* to cut down forage, and various other incumbraces; yet, thus equipped, were ordered to pursue, and charge the troops who were at that time advanced so much before them, that to discover even the *dust* occasioned by their line of march, required the *aid of glasses*; they however gallopped off full speed, every man dropping alternately those extra appointments found at the time so cumbersome, and their route might have been easily traced by the scattered implements thus left behind them. The horses in a short time were completely blown, and returned, evincing by their short drawn breath, and stretched out necks, the folly of employing troops to skirmish as *huzzars*, intended evidently for far different purposes. The 11th, 15th, and 16th British *light dragoons*, with the Austrian huzzars of *Barco* came up however, with the rear guard of the enemy's line, at the village of *Murcuoin*; but finding them retreating in a very soldier-like manner, having their *baggage* in the front, their *infantry* following, and their *cavalry* in the rear, the whole protected by their park of artillery, our troops were instantly obliged to sheer off, as from some field pieces, the Republicans commenced a brisk fire, by which a few of the dragoons were killed and wounded. In the village were found 2 small pieces of artillery, which were carried off. CLAIRFAIT perceived, upon crossing the Scheldt, at day-break, that the camp de Cæsar had also been abandoned in the night; and thus, instead of gaining any signal ad-

But the French (and I grieve ſuch ſad truth muſt be
penn'd,
Ever know to a tittle whate'er we intend)
From the Camp de Cæſar, for Arras had retreated,
And thus were friend HOHENLOHE's ſchemes all defeated.
To encreaſe that fine farcical ſhew and parade,
At Valenciennes, eight days all the troops were delay'd;
Had we puſh'd on at once tho', I'm greatly miſtaken,
If theſe nimble-heel'd heroes had thus ſav'd their bacon.
Here the armies were parted*, hard fate had decreed,
That ours ſhould directly to Dunkirk proceed.
From COBOURG†, his quota of men we receiv'd;
And to leave him, believe me, we're heartily griev'd.

vantage by this irruption into the enemy's country, it only tended to delay the future operations of the allies; and the army, which had been ſuffered to eſcape, when, in ſome meaſure in his power, became afterwards ſufficiently formidable to bid defiance to *Prince Cobourg*, to ſnatch the blooming laurels from his brows, and ultimately to nip his hopes of conqueſt in the bud.

* If ever any meaſure adopted in the preſent war was dictated by folly, and by an unaccountable and deſperate inſanity, it was ſurely *that* by which the irreſiſtible force, which had been ſo happily conſolidated, was checked abruptly in its glorious career, and frittered down to nothing, at the very moment when puſhing forwards, and elated with victory, it might perhaps have terminated, glorioufly, a conteſt, which has *ſince that period* produced only ſcenes of mortification and of diſappointment. Every man with ſorrow learnt the *unfortunate* reſult of that fatal conſultation, by which the Britiſh army, and its ſubſidized auxiliaries, were withdrawn from the imperialiſts, under whoſe banners they had reaped ſo much well-earned applauſe.

† Whatever ſapient reaſons might have induced his Majeſty's adviſers, (if with them the plan originated) to undertake the ſiege of Dunkirk, Prince COBOURG was openly and decidedly againſt it; nay, it was at the time moſt confidently aſſerted, that he left the *council chamber*, leſt he might afterwards be ſaid to have ſanctioned their proceedings by his approbation. When the

When united, all matters went ſmoothly of courſe,
And our faces grew long on dividing our force.
A country more beautiful never was ſeen,
Than Cambrai's fertile province, thro' which we have
  been.
As far as eye reach'd, the full ripe waving grain
Was courting the ſickle, and gladden'd the plain!
Had our orders been ſuch, we had ſorely annoy'd
Our foes, and great part of the harveſt deſtroy'd;
But leaving it ſtanding, our march to purſue,
We proceeded, and took up our ground near Baiſſieu.
Thy aſſiſtance, great God of the lyre, I invoke;
Oh, ſpare me a Muſe (if there's one unbeſpoke.)
My deſcription to heighten, diſpatch to my aid
Some friendly, good-humoured, and kind-hearted maid;
She's here, and ſhe begs I'll proceed with my ſtory,
Nor attempt with bombaſtical nonſenſe to bore ye.
Oh Nymph moſt celeſtial! thy will I obey,
And grant me with eaſe ſtill to "carol my lay."
At Menin, the eighteenth ‡, were we told very much
Of the valour and firmneſs evinc'd by the Dutch.

matter was determined, the imperial field marſhal furniſhed his Royal Highneſs with a quota of 10,000 Auſtrians, under the command of *Gen. Dalton.* Prince COBOURG, after having ineffectually ſummoned Cambray to ſurrender, filed off towards *Le Queſnoi*, a place, which from its ſituation on the frontiers, being nearly in a line with *Valenciennes* and *Condé*, was of infinitely more conſequence to facilitate his future operations. The Duke's army approached the fatal place of its deſtination; paſſing through *Fechin*, *Marchennes*, and *Roubaix*, and keeping the fortreſſes of *Lille* and *Douay* on their left, they arrived at *Turcoin* on the 16th of Auguſt.

‡ The Britiſh ſoldiers had juſt pitched their tents near *Menin*, and placed the crackling wood under their Camp kettles, to prepare ſome

That it might not by any who heard it be doubted,
They themſelves rav'd with voices *ſtentorial* about it.
Told of many a Battery, ſtrong Poſt, and Redoubt,
They'd valiantly *ſtorm'd*, and the French put to rout.
In the evening, however, as pallid as death,
An Aid de Camp gallopp'd in, panting for breath,
Reporting detachments *no force* could repel,
Which advancing from Lille ſeem'd to menace Lincelles.
And, *ſemper paratus*, our little brigade
With alacrity, cheerfully march'd to their aid.
When arriv'd near the village,* we hunted around,
But in vain, not a Dutchman was there to be found.

neceſſary refreſhment, after a long and tireſome march, when orders were conveyed to the three battalions of guards, who were uſually, in 1793, as General LAKE jocoſely ſtyled them, the *firſt-turn Boys*, to puſh on inſtantly towards the poſt of *Lincelles*, to co-operate with the Dutch troops, then in garriſon at Menin, who had been all that morning engaged at their out-poſts, and found themſelves hard preſſed by the Republicans. Regardleſs of their former fatigues, the brigade advanced ſo rapidly, that in little more than *one* hour from the time they had received their orders, they were at their place of deſtination, diſtant nearly *ſix* miles from their encampment.

* The brigade inſtantly moved forwards to a large *bean field* in the rear of the village, in which the crop had grown up ſo high, that it prevented the troops *at firſt* perceiving in what direction to proceed. They were, however, very ſoon relieved from their uncertainty, and ſaluted by a briſk diſcharge of grape-ſhot from ſome batteries in their front, which, as well as the village, was underſtood to have been in poſſeſſion of the Dutch. General LAKE having in vain looked round for *his Allies*, was *then* convinced that they muſt all have precipitately abandoned the poſition, and retreated by ſome other rout. There was no time for deliberation, the men were formed in line, as regularly as circumſtances and the nature of the ground would permit, and unappalled by the inceſſant ſhowers of grape-ſhot, which deſcended amongſt them, thinning their ranks at every freſh diſcharge, they ruſhed on, cheering each other with repeated loud huzza's, and leaping the ditches in front of the very embraſſeurs from whence the pieces of artillery were vomiting forth the

Their late boaſted courage had melted to air;
Such cowardice, Mars ſay, What deeds can repair?
The ſame page that brands with diſhonour their name,
The Britiſh records in the annals of fame
With LAKE at their head; who, belov'd and rever'd,
Not leſs by his conduct than valour's endear'd
To us all. That he headed the Guards at Lincelles,
The annals of war to his credit ſhall tell.
He rode down the line, and encourag'd his men,
To charge and retake the redoubts once again.
This wiſh was no ſooner expreſs'd than perform'd,
And the works with the bay'net were rapidly ſtorm'd,

dreadful harbingers of death, inſtantaneouſly entered the different batteries ere their enemies were able to eſcape.

At the point of the bayonet they drove them through the village; and thus, in leſs than half an hour, were in poſſeſſion of their guns, and recovered the different poſts which by the Dutch had been ſo ſhamefully abandoned. General LAKE, convinced of the perilous ſituation of his troops, was extremely apprehenſive, that their national ſpirit would urge them on in the purſuit, further than was prudent; and, aware that the Republicans might *rally*, and perceive before what an inferior force they were *by flight* eſcaping, endeavoured to recall them, and at length ſucceeded, aſſiſted by the commanding officers of the *ſeparate* battalions, Colonels GRINFIELD, HULSE, and PENNINGTON, who ſeverally obtained great credit for their conduct. The brigade, then forming in a ſteady line, with its centre in *an orchard*, and its flanks in the front of the village and *redoubts*, in which the Britiſh artillery-men were poſted, ſuſtained for ſome time a heavy cannonade, and were annoyed by a diſcharge of grape and round ſhot, putting them in a ſituation at all times irkſome to the Britiſh, who cannot bear to ſtand in one ſpot to be *pelted*, as they term it, without a chance of returning their enemies the blows they deal them.

The French were then, however, on full march to Lille; and their field pieces were drawn up merely to cover their retreat. At one period their officers certainly intended to lead them back to the attack, as they had faced them *round*, and their orders iſſued to *march* on *("marchez en avant")* could diſtinctly and repeatedly be heard. A party actually approached a poſition where a ſix-pounder had been fortunately planted, covered by a detachment of the guards under Colonel WATSON, of the

By our hundreds, their thousands, like chaff by the wind,
Were dispers'd, and great numbers of slain left behind.
The business completely and quickly was done,
Twelve pieces of cannon * were gallantly won.
Here EVANS was† mortally wounded, and here
A ball put a period to BOSVILLE's career;

3d regiment, which gun, by opening upon them with grape shot, and when, (as for a moment was the case) its ammunition was expended, the party, by keeping up an incessant *street fire*, obliged them to sheer off, and join their panic-struck companions. Had a small number of cavalry been at that moment advanced, the glory of the day must have been beyond measure complete; yet the ground was so intersected with wide ditches, that they might perhaps have found it difficult *to act*; but to British Light Dragoons in pursuit of *any enemy*, every obstacle appears trivial, and most easily surmounted. *As it was*, no previous or subsequent engagement, during the present war, upon however *grand a scale*, could be *more brilliant*; nor has any one been so deservedly extolled as the affair of Lincelles, where 1,100 men drove back, in so spirited a manner, 5,000 of their enemies from formidable batteries, defended by large pieces of artillery.

* A serjeant of the 1st regiment of guards, upon entering one of the redoubts, found planted there, a tricoloured Republican banner; and a *French officer*, who was endeavouring to remove it, instantly delivered up his sword, demanding quarter. The serjeant returned it, attentive only to the colours, which, when he was preparing to secure, the Frenchman aiming a blow at his hand, struck off two fingers, and attempted to escape; his flight was arrested, and he was punished by the bayonet of a British soldier, who had witnessed the transaction. Such instances of a total want of every generous sentiment were at that period remarkably conspicuous amongst even the *Gallic officers*, who are not, as before the Revolution, famed for courage and humanity, but with very few exceptions *treacherous* and sanguinary in the extreme; being, for the most part, at once pushed on to tread the rugged path of war, without deriving those advantages from education, which would teach them, that the first duty of men, entrusted with command, is to alleviate, rather than to add to all its horrors.

† When the Guards were forming in the *Bean Field* under a tremendous fire of grape-shot, the French had *fortunately elevated* their Guns, and they consequently did less execution than might naturally have been apprehended. In *that Field*, however, most of the men who fell, recei-

Sad tidings are these, for his newly made bride!
Scarce married when hurried away from her side,
At Honor's stern mandate he left her forlorn,
Little dreaming, alas! he must never return.
'Twas here too DEPIESTER's unfortunate lot,
When serving his guns, thro' the heart to be shot.
The second Brigade* to relieve us was sent,
And to camp were our steps again joyfully bent.

ved their wounds; *Lieut. Col. Bosville*, whose Company suffered so severely, being the right of the Coldstream, in the *Wood* of St. Amand, was there fated to meet that death he had before so narrowly escaped. When forming his men in line, he was killed by a Grape-shot which struck him in the head. Col. EVANS, of the 1st. Regiment, there also had his thigh bone fractured, which in about six weeks deprived him of existence. At the same moment nearly, Capt. CUNYNGHAME, of the third, met with a very painful, tho' not as it has turned out, a dangerous wound. Capt. WHETHAM, of the first Regiment, an officer who had repeatedly distinguished himself during the memorable siege of Gibraltar, was shot in the ancle, which wound has since proved more serious that was at the time apprehended. The other officers were slightly wounded, viz. *Col. Doyley, Capts. Archer* and *Bristow* of the first Reg. *Lieut. Col. Gascoine*, and *Ensign Bayley*, of the Coldstream; *Lieut. De Piester*, of the artillery, whose guns were attached to the *3d Regiment*, was advanced to draw the attention of the French by his firing, while the works were stormed, and met his death from a cannon-ball, in the execution of his duty. He had seen much active service in America, was an officer of great professional merit, and fell deservedly regretted. The total loss of the British amounted to 3 officers, 2 sergeants, 1 drum major, and 35 rank and file, in killed; 8 officers, 6 sergeants, and 131 rank and file, in wounded. That of the Republicans could not possibly be ascertained, but was inconsiderable, as they retreated precipitately upon the first appearance of the guards, without attempting to withdraw their guns, or to make the least resistance, further than was necessary to cover their retreat. Sir JAMES MURRAY's dispatches state it, at between 2 and 300 men.

* Gen. LAKE had dispatched an aid-de-camp to the head-quarters of his royal highness the commander in chief at Menin, informing him of the flight of the Dutch, and of the perilous situation of the guards; the second brigade, as well as some battalions of Hessians, were consequently ordered to support them, but could not possibly arrive till the affair was terminated. The Dutch troops having been also ordered to re-oc-

But the works, which with so many lives had been gain'd,
Were prudently only till day-light maintain'd.
This honor, my friend, as in general is thought,
Can never by soldiers too dearly be bought;
That's our Creed, or Lincelles would induce me to say,
'Twas a pity brave men should be lavish'd away,

cupy their former position, the guards were permitted to march back to their camp; and the redoubts having been levelled with the ground, the post was early the next morning abandoned as *untenable*, being distant only two leagues and a half (about 7 miles and a half) from LILLE. The Dutch were so thoroughly ashamed of their behaviour, and so crest-fallen, that they slunk about, avoiding as much as possible the British soldiers; and the prince of *Waldecb*, who commanded the garrison of Menin, in a very noble manner, caught the first officer of the guards he met with the next day, by the hand, and after extolling the gallantry of the British soldiers (when surrounded by his own officers) exclaimed, "*Your glory is our shame.*"

According to every appearance the Dutch troops must have determined upon retreating, at the *very moment* they sent requesting reinforcements from the duke of YORK. A war of *Posts* should as much as possible at all times be avoided, as tending only to the effusion of human blood, without being of the least advantage to the general cause. Our enemies have in that instance offered us an excellent example, making it their constant rule never to *sacrifice a single man* by defending positions, which they at the same time allow to be untenable; and surely, for the loss of 185 British soldiers at *Lincelles*, we were but little compensated, by the artillery, ammunition, horses, and other articles, gained from the Republicans.

This attack might certainly have answered one good purpose, for the French were naturally induced to imagine that it was made preparatory to the investiture of *Lille*. Having on the 19th, paid the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of Col. BOSVILLE, Lieut. DE PIESTER, and the artillery men who had fallen belonging to his guns; for with a pious care too noble and praise worthy to pass from memory like to *the light transactions of the trivial day*, their comrades brought them from the field of battle, and prepared their graves close to the brave DE PIESTER's, so that they shared with him the funereal rites. The troops were once again in motion on the 20th, and passing through the town of Ypres, halted at *Boesynghe*.

The Austrians, under prince COBOURG, had, on the 17th of August, succeeded in their attacks upon the *Bois de Mormal*, and gaining possession

I've only juſt time left to ſcribble adieu,
As the punctual Drum Major's already in view.

of the poſts on the left banks of the *Sambre*, viz. *Jolimetz*, *Loquinol*, *Hecq*, and the other villages ſkirting the wood, conſtructed a moſt formidable *Abbatis*, and a long chain of batteries to protect them on the ſide of *Landrecies*, while they proceeded with the ſiege of *Le Queſnoi*; they carried their point with a very trifling loſs, not exceeding 60 men, while the Republicans loſt 500 at the leaſt in killed and wounded; ſeveral of their officers of rank, and 200 of their men, were alſo taken priſoners.

Every thing remained quiet on the banks of the Rhine after the ſurrender of *Mayence*, the Republicans having *then* fallen back behind the lines of Weiſſenbourg.

THE END OF PART I.

A SKETCH OF THE CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

PART II.

IN A

SERIES OF LETTERS,

FROM ONE OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S

AID-DE-CAMPS,

TO

MISS LUCY LOVEGROVE,

IN

ENGLAND.

DEDICATED TO THE OFFICERS

COMPOSING HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S FAMILY UPON THE CONTINENT.

" *Arma virumque cano.*"

DEDICATION.

GENTLEMEN,

UPON the appearance of the firſt edition of the Campaign of 1793, the ſecond part of which contained Letters from *Head Quarters*, I can call to mind your aſtoniſhment; nor was my own ſurprize inferior: to ſee the very name of the lady to whom in confidence I had written, and alſo, in ſome degree, the very lines I had compoſed, rouſed in my mind ſuſpicions, for which, my deareſt LUCY, I here publickly requeſt your pardon. With infinite pains and aſſiduity, I however ſoon diſcovered, that the only friend to whom I had read thoſe letters, had a memory ſufficiently retentive to write them down in his own tent, nearly *verbatim*:— What could then be done—they had appeared in an imperfect ſtate, and ſome of the beſt ideas were, I found, omitted; in ſhort, upon diſcovering that my friend intended to publiſh a narrative of the proceedings on the continent, I at length agreed to furniſh him with the original letters, convinced, that in my remarks, I had followed the advice of our immortal bard, when he bids us

"—— Nothing extenuate,
Nor ſet down aught in malice."

To you, Gentlemen, I therefore dedicate my portion of the work, as no men, ſave your noble ſelves, can judge whether I have deſcribed the pleaſures of our ſituation with a faithful pen, or not.

Take them, therefore, under your protection, and be aſſured, that you will not find a line, a word, the offſpring of ill-nature.

The ſprightly Muſe may ſometimes have induced her votary to relate the modes adopted to amuſe our leiſure hours; but ſhe has not furniſhed him a ſingle thought, he proudly boaſts, that can reflect upon the ſoundneſs of his heart.

Believe me, Gentlemen,

With reſpect, regard, and every friendly ſentiment,

Your faithful, and obedient

Brother on the Staff.

A

SKETCH

OF THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

LETTER I.

HEAD-QUARTERS, FURNES, *Auguſt* 21, 1793.

One of the Aid-de-Camps to his Royal Highneſs—Sooths the mind of his favorite Fair, and with a timid pencil traces the comforts of his ſituation.

WHAT honour, your hero! your champion! will gain,
Sweeteſt girl! at the cloſe of this brilliant campaign.
And be womaniſh fears to your boſom a ſtranger;
Our laurels are gather'd without any danger.
We're here at Head Quarters, as ſafe and as ſnug,
To uſe an old phraſe, as a bug in a rug:
We breakfaſt, ride out, we return home to dine,
And drown all our ſorrows in bumpers of wine.
When marching of courſe the beſt quarters we claim,
And our out-rider S-NT-G * chalks up with each name

* This gentleman, in various capacities, exerted himſelf with the moſt perſevering activity in the ſervice of his royal highneſs's *family*, (which term, it ſhould be underſtood, compriſes the ſtaff and other officers, attached by good appointments to head quarters). He was, at the time theſe letters were firſt written, in the *Quarter Maſter General's* department, and his method of *chalking up* on the doors, the names of thoſe officers who were to take poſſeſſion of the beſt houſes in the villages, through which the army paſſed, deſerves to be recorded. The

S. A. R. which we know ev'ry comfort secures,
And hardships an Aid de Camp never endures.
Permit not your delicate spirits to droop,
Nor fancy we're starving on bouillie and soup ;*
For the mules† are so loaded with victuals and drink,
That under their burdens thy're ready to sink :
While the *fags* scarce a morsel of bread can command,
We live at our ease on the fat of the land.
Each day like the former, fleets pleasantly by,
Each night at our ease in good houses we lie,
Tents are voted no shelter to yield from the damp,
And a village is better by far than a camp.
The Cherub, whose pinions around me are spread,
Will guard from all harm, ev'ry hair of my head,
And to stifle your cares with a word, I'll be bold,
To *weather it thus* without fever or cold.
When *the guards* made that gallant attack on Lincelles,
With fury on beef and plumb pudding we fell,

particular flourish too with which he formed the *talismatic S A R* (son altesse royale) was frequently admired. He was afterwards *captain of guides*, then of the waggoners ; in short, it would have been impossible to have carried on the war without his friendly aid.

* *Soup* and *bouillie* was the usual diet of the troops while under canvass, that is, when sufficiently settled to have time to cook it. The *camp kettle* was generally open to receive whatever chance threw, in the soldiers way, and frequently, in quiet times ; as for example, at *Soltain*, where the tent pins were for six weeks unmolested, beef, mutton, vegetables, game, and poultry, were jumbled there promiscuously together.

Hodge podge I've joy'd with pewter spoon to carve,
And thank'd my stars when suffer'd so *to starve*.

† A set of Hanoverian sumpter mules, employed to carry, on a march, cold meats, the service of plate, rich wines, and other necessary articles of refreshment for the family. The cooks, and servants (furnished also by Hanover) with the more cumbrous kitchen utensils, *preceded* these most useful animals, in *large covered waggons*.

And bumpers of burgundy jovially quaff'd,
While *the joke* was *giv'n out*, and *the family* laugh'd.
Undisturb'd by the cannons, which plough'd up the
ground,
Their roaring *by ours*, most completely was drown'd.
When our wine *became hot*, we rode up to claim share
In the glory, and prove that *we all* had been there.
Remember, my charmer! I charge you once more,
Look well to these letters, keep lock'd your scrutore,
Nor read them aloud, lest some eve-dropper hears,
But bear in your mind ever, "*Walls have had ears*,"
In short, for the sake of your time-serving bard,
Adopt as your motto, the words *prenez garde*.
For to you, tho' thus frank, to the world we must brag,
So LUCY don't let "*the cat out of the bag*."
Were you here, dearest lass! all these comforts to share,
My raptures would pass what a mortal could bear,
Exceed e'en the fabled enjoyments of JOVE!
But whither would fancy delusively rove?
She'd lead me *at once* upon earth to a Heav'n,
Tho' here, for wise ends, perfect bliss can't be giv'n.
The mind is so form'd that we ever beseech
The Gods to grant blessings plac'd far from our reach.
Yet I swear, as I hate all thy tribe, O TENDUCI,
I nothing could wish for, if bless'd with my LUCY.
Hark! I'm call'd for—adieu, for *a season*, adieu,
To your soldier prove ever love, constant and true.

Such machines we expect, as surpass all belief,
Invented and prov'd once before by M———F.
Huge frames made of wood, but as light as a feather,
That take all to pieces, and then put together.
To be *knock'd up* in England and sent to us here,
For dispatch is the soul of our chief engineer.
When arriv'd, to erect them, one night will suffice,
The sight will the foe both annoy and surprise.
It only remains then to fill them with sand,
To mount our large guns, and the ramparts command.

leading from Furnes, and the sea, when the allies, forming the Duke's army, were under arms; and a corps of *Austrians*, the *flank battalions* of the British *guards* and *line*; with the *Hessian* grenadiers, forming *the reserve* under Lieut. Gen. DALTON, were ordered to advance, and drive them from their posts before the town. The event was brilliant and successful, as the French were driven from their batteries and entrenchments, under the very walls of Dunkirk, through a country, with which the troops engaged, were entirely unacquainted, intersected with wide ditches, and impenetrable hedge rows, composed of sturdy pollards. Gen. DALTON was unfortunately shot towards the close of the day. He was of an Irish family, but had long been in the service of the emperor, and braved, under the imperial banners, the dangers of many a siege, and many a long campaign. As he fell, co-operating with our *forces*, the Duke of YORK obtained for his widow a considerable pension from the British government. The command devolved upon his death to Gen. ABERCROMBIE, and exposed to a very heavy fire from the ramparts of the place, the troops suffered most severely; Lieut. Col. ELD, commanding the light company of the 1st regiment of guards, was the only British officer killed; struck in the breast by a cannon ball, he instantly expired. He constantly wore the portrait of a lady in miniature, and it has been noticed, as a very extraordinary circumstance, that, though it was driven into the wound, upon being extricated by a surgeon, the portrait itself remained uninjured, while the glass and setting were demolished. Capt. WILLIAMS of the same regiment, and Lieut. WILSON of the artillery, were slightly wounded. The Austrians lost 170 men in killed and wounded; the British 74. The Hessians had 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, and 13 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant colonel, 2 lieutenants, and 36 men wounded. The advanced posts were then pushed on to within a short distance of the town, and batteries were constructed on each side of the canal.

Nay the musquetry, often M———r's been heard swear,
He'll bring on their works in a few days to bear.
We mean on all sieges in this to refine,
No lab'ring at trenches, no sapping, no mine.
And we'll carry our point, for the knowing ones say,
Ev'ry plan must succeed, being *quite à l'Anglois!*
No *Ferraris* can now to our projects object,
But each *brilliant thought* will be crown'd with effect;
And tho' there are fools*, who our councils molest,
Declaring the place we should closely invest;

* It had been generally supposed by the officers of the Duke's army that the troops would have remained near Furnes, till the heavy guns arrived from England, and till the fleet under Admiral Macbride intended to co-operate with the besiegers, hove in sight. The enemy would *then* have been left in a state of uncertainty as to all future operations; but when they perceived, that after barely allowing them time to repose, the tents were ordered to be struck, and they were *at once* to advance upon the town, information was supposed to have arrived of such a nature, as would permit *no waste of time*; and that the governor had either agreed to throw open the gates, or that the garrison was in such a weak and defenceless state, as to render a *coup de main* not only practicable, but advisable. In both these suppositions, they too soon found they were deceived; for without any of the preparations *in England* being *even* in a degree of forwardness, without a *single gun* heavier than a field piece, they had rushed on, under the very walls of Dunkirk, and then halting, gave the troops in garrison four and twenty hours to consider, whether they would surrender up the place or not. The little army thus advanced, generally computed at about 10,0 0 effective men, not being sufficiently strong for the investiture of the fortress, the governor made the best use of the time thus granted to him. The garrison was augmented, heavy guns were mounted on the ramparts, and supplies of every kind thrown in. Of what avail was then the bravery of the troops? and what was their situation the short time they remained before the place? The inundations increasing daily, rendered the ground, on which the British were encamped, a perfect *swamp*; fresh water became scarce, and so bad, that it was hardly drinkable. The only method to procure the most trifling supply, was by digging very deep for it, *and then*, after hours of hard labour, it became, *in a few moments*, brackish, and impregnated with *salt water*, which flowed in with every tide, and was prevented from return-

Nor leave it thus open to Lille and Caſſel;
'Tis nonſenſe, believe me, all things muſt go well.
For FREYTAG*, *choice troops* has forth carefully drawn,
The pride of his nation, not Hanover's ſpawn:
And thoſe reptiles, ſcarce worthy an Engliſh ſpun halter,
Will fly before heroes from famous Gibraltar.
We're wond'rous *alerte* too, and gallop each night,
Till our ſteeds pant for breath, though their burthens are
light:
For we're *feather weights* all, ſaving C-LV-RT and
H-WG-LL,
And the latter's aye forming a *pen* from a new quill;

ing to the ſea, by means of flood gates. The heavy guns came ſlowly *one* by *one*, up the canal from Oſtend, there was no ſign of the promiſed fleet, and the ſettled calm in the town, ſeemed only to portend a dreadful ſtorm.

* Field marſhal FREYTAG commanded the *covering army*, conſiſting of the Hanoverians, and part of the Auſtrian quota furniſhed by Prince COBOURG, muſtering in the whole about 12,000 men as was generally ſuppoſed, though ſome Hanoverian officers have computed it at only 9,000. He had ſucceeded in taking up his ground at *Hondſchoote*, and thereby kept the garriſon of Bergues pent up within their walls. On Mons Caſſel the French, however, ſoon conſtructed a moſt formidable camp, ſending thither daily freſh troops from *Lille*, communicating with the town of Dunkirk by *Gravelines*. The forts of St. André and St. Louis were alſo in their hands, and the beſiegers had made their approaches on the Flemiſh ſide of the town where it was beſt defended.

An epidemical diſorder very ſoon appeared amongſt the troops, encreaſing daily, called the *Dunkirk fever*, which carried off the ſoldiers rapidly, though they ſuffered but little when on duty, from the ſhells aimed at their batteries, which were thrown with ſuch force, that they generally buried themſelves in the ſand, and the fuſees were extinguiſhed ere they burſt.

Prince COBOURG was at this period proceeding vigorouſly with the ſiege of *Le Queſnoi*; the allies had been ſucceſsful in their various ſkirmiſhes on the left banks of the Rhine, and Gen. WURMSUR's head quarters were advanced to *Rhinzaberen*; on the 20th of Auguſt a ſevere engagement took place near the town of Lauterberg; no ſignal advantages were gained, though many lives were loſt on both ſides. The Republi-

While the country we ſcow'r, and the poſt reconnoitre,
Still B-NT-CK remains, for the dinner to *cater*.
Tir'd of padding the hoof in *the guards*, very ſoon
Againſt nature you'll grant, he became a dragoon.
For on horſeback we find he 'as a tickeliſh ſeat,
Tho' fam'd as an excellent judge of good meat.
At croak of a raven, or chant of a linnet,
Should ſteed prick his ears, B-NT-CK's down in a minute.
The reaſon of this we can truly expound,
He's ſhort in the fork, and his thigh's rather round.
None ſo active with us as Pr——ce J—N, and we're ſure
From what he declares we are fully ſecure.
Juſt now, he's come down from a ſycamore tree,
Where he's been for this hour with his friend the marquis;
And they plainly diſcover'd if fame reports true,
A man, *a la diſtance, habillie en bleu*,
A Frenchman of courſe, and I'll venture a bet,
A centinel mounted, yclep'd a vidette.
That remains to be prov'd tho', but dinner I ſpy,
I ſcent *fricandeaus*, and muſt bid you good bye.

cans however abandoned ſeveral ammunition waggons, and 19 pieces of heavy artillery. The Duke of BRUNSWICK was at that time at *Homburg* in the duchy of *Deux Ponts*, and detaching Prince HOHENLOHE to keep the enemy poſted at *Neu Hornbach* in check, made a ſucceſsful attack upon the camp at *Felſenbrunn*, where a corps of between 6, and 7,000 of the French had pitched their tents.

A general attack was made upon the Dutch poſts by a column of the enemy, drawn from the camp of *Madelaine*, under the walls of Lille. *Lannoi*, *Roubaix*, *Turcoin*, and *Ronq*, were carried by the French, but ſoon retaken. Another corps advanced at the ſame moment upon *Wervicke*, where, experiencing a more formidable oppoſition than was expected, they precipitately retreated, unable to effect the paſſage of the Lys.

LETTER III.

HEAD-QUARTERS, FURNES, 9, *Sept.* 1793.

Defeat of the Covering Army—Consequent Retreat from Dunkirk.

ALAS, and alack! all the fat's in the fire!
From Dunkirk in haste, we've been forc'd to retire.
The French from the place made a desp'rate sortie,
Tho' we verily thought that it never could be,
For so quiet those crafty Republicans seem'd,
That of such a misfortune no mortal had dream'd.
Nay, we fully expected each moment, dear LUCE!
O'Meara would send out a *trump-t* and *truce.*
But paddy kept snug till he found that HOUCHARD
Was able to offer old FREYTAG *his card.*
No language can paint all our grief and surprise,
And sorrow at once open'd ev'ry man's eyes.
E'en J-HN-T-NE, who all things can prove *upon paper*,
Perceiv'd at wrong end we had lighted the taper,
O thou! who so well with thy pencil didst trace;
Each approach that we made to this d—mn--ble place!
Tie crape round its top, as it marks our retreat,
And shews where we made the best use of our feet.
And no more shall *mock batteries** throw pellets of bread,
Like cannister-shot at your nice powder'd head!

* Great minds must at times unbend; a *Prime Minister* has been known to chase a butterfly; and it was a favorite amusement at head-quarters to *open batteries* with cherry-stones, or pellets of bread upon the D. Q. M. G. whose good nature was proverbial.

Favourite Amusement at Head Quarters.

Pub.d by Cadell & Davies, Strand.

Nor H—WG—LL, nor CL—NT—N, puff ſmoke in your
eyes,
Till tir'd with their wit from the table you riſe.
But let me my ſenſes collect, to relate
What occaſion'd this dreadful reverſe in our fate.
Our ears were annoy'd by a briſk cannonade*!
And FREYTAG in haſte ſent, imploring our aid!
So we order'd ſome horſe and our premier brigade.
But the French, ere their rout they'd purſu'd half a mile,
Sallied forth from the place in a ſpirited ſtyle!

* Early in the morning, on the 5th of September, Field Marſhal FREYTAG made a ſucceſsful attack upon the French poſt of *Ernecke*, on the river *Peene*, taking priſoners 5 officers, and 60 rank and file. On the 6th, the Republicans advancing from their camp on *Mons Caſſel*, and their troops in garriſon at Bergues, at the ſame time ſallying forth, aſſaulted the Hanoverians at *Wormhout* and *Eſquelberg*; and pouring down with a ſuperiority of numbers, which at length became irreſiſtible, carried thoſe poſts, ultimately poſſeſſing themſelves of *Bambecke*, *Poperinge*, and *Rouſbrugge*. A heavy cannonade continued all that day, and an aid-de-camp, from FREYTAG, was diſpatched to convey to his Royal Highneſs the unpropitious tidings. The troops in camp were accordingly ordered under arms; about two o'clock in the evening, the guards paſſing *Lefferinckhoucke*, were proceeding, as they imagined, to ſupport the covering army, but a briſk fire commencing from the batteries on the right banks of the canal, it was found that the troops in garriſon, (aware of HOUÇHARD's ſucceſs) had ſallied forth, and the brigade countermarching, was ordered to its former ground. The Auſtrian regiments of *Colloredo* and *Jordis*, with the 14th Britiſh infantry, were *then* engaged moſt briſkly, and the firing continued without intermiſſion for a moment, till it was nearly dark. The French, when they began to waver, were preſſed with ſo much ſpirit and ſucceſs, that they precipitately retreated towards the town, and were followed up ſo cloſely, that had not their purſuers been recalled, they muſt have enter'd *Dunkirk* with them, both parties having reached *together*, the creſt of the glacis. *Then* was the want of the long-looked-for fleet *ſeverely* felt, for the French gun boats ſwept off great numbers of the allies expoſed upon the ſtrand to their inceſſant fire.

Which oblig'd us to beckon the Guards back again,
And FREYTAG was left his own ground to maintain.
Diſturb'd at *our dinner*, we haſten'd to ſee,
What the end of this popping was likely to be.
Like lions! our troops fought, and ſoon made them fly,
Tho' not without loſs to themſelves by the bye.
MONCRIEF was the firſt who lay ſtretch'd on the ſand;
MONCRIEF, who for valour! our praiſe muſt command.
Next MARCHAL, a ſoldier moſt highly eſteem'd,
And juſtly a loſs to the family deem'd,
But peace to the manes* of thoſe who are dead,
A tear for their fate we have ſorrowing ſhed!

* Colonel MONCRIEF was killed in his exertions to keep the gun boats in awe by the field pieces of the troops engaged; and Captain MARCHAL, an Hanoverian aid-de-camp, was mortally wounded, when conveying orders from his Royal Highneſs. Enſign M'DONALD of the 37th loſt his life by a chance-ſhot, when on duty in the batteries. Captain GARNIER, Lieut. M'KENSIE, and Enſigns ELRINGTON, SMITH, and WILLIAMS, with volunteers DAY and M'GRATH of the 14th regiment, were wounded. A ſerjeant, and 9 rank and file, were killed. A ſerjeant, drummer, and 36 wounded. The other regiments of General ABERCROMBIE's brigade were but little expoſed, the 37th having only 3 privates wounded, and the 53d four. The Auſtrians ſuffered more ſeverely, they loſt, according to their own returns, 150 men in killed and wounded.

FREYTAG, croſſing the river *Yſer*, fell back that night upon Hondſchoote, keeping the right flank of his army appuyéd to a branch of the canal running from *Furnes* to *Bergues*, while his left extended to *Leyſele*. His Royal Highneſs Prince ADOLPHUS, and the Hanoverian field marſhal, were, during their retreat, *both* ſlightly wounded, and for a *few moments* in the hands of the Republicans; ſuppoſing a patrole of their own cavalry was in their front, they had entered the village of *Rexpoede then* in the enemy's poſſeſſion. They were ſoon, however, extricated from their perilous ſituation, by a detachment of the troops under the command of general WALMODEN. FREYTAG's wound, though not by any means *ſevere*, obliged him to retire from the ſcene of action. Very little firing was heard until the evening of the 7th, when the French advancing once again, were in their turn repulſed. On the 8th, HOUCHARD

We all were that day in a great conſternation,
And each loſt his wonted profound penetration!
Ye Gods, we exclaim'd, all our wiſhes are croſt,
Our hopes at an end, and the town muſt be loſt.
Then orders* were giv'n that the ſiege ſhould be rais'd,
And a meaſure ſo prudent, moſt highly was prais'd.

having received the laſt detachment of thoſe reinforcements, which, by *coaches*, *waggons*, *cabriolets*, and *carts*, all put in requiſition for the purpoſe, had been diſpatched from *Lille*, *Cambray*, *Douay*, *Arras*, in ſhort, from every fortreſs in the north, poured down *en maſſe*, and forcing the centre of WALMODEN's line, (that General, then commanding in the abſence of field marſhal FREYTAG,) obliged him, with a loſs which never has been aſcertained, to fall back upon *Bulſcamp*. On the 6th, 7th, and 8th, the returns of killed, wounded, and miſſing, in the Covering Army, amounted nearly to 8,400 men. One regiment, which had been in the morning of the 8th complete in officers, returned from the field of battle, in the *evening*, commanded by a junior enſign. The late Sir WILLIAM ERSKINE, with a part of his brigade of *heavy* cavalry, was ſtationed near Hondſchoote. His troops, however, owing to the nature of the ground, were not engaged, though *diſmounted*, and formed ready to act as infantry.

*. The moment that intelligence of the entire defeat of the covering army was received, orders were iſſued to the beſieging army *to retreat*, and *thoſe orders* were productive of more confuſion than had *perhaps* before been ever witneſſed. A very inſufficent number of carts and horſes were, with difficulty, procured to carry off the baggage. All the heavy pieces of ordnance that had been ſent out from England, amounting in the whole to nearly 40 iron guns of a callibre, to carry balls of 24 pounds weight, with an immenſe quantity of amunition, were abandoned to the enemy; however great the neceſſity for this prompt retreat, Lieut. Col. CONGREVE, who commanded the artillery, gave it as his decided opinion, that, with perfect ſafety, it might have been deferred for four and twenty hours, in which time he would have undertaken the removal of *thoſe guns*. The rulers of the French nation were, however, of a very different opinion; and HOUCHARD, notwithſtanding his ſucceſs, was *guillotined* for not pouring down upon the beſiegers, and driving them *into the ſea*, after he had handled ſo roughly the forces poſted to protect them. About midnight, on the 8th of September, the Duke of YORK's army was in motion; and the creeking carts had been ſo over-loaded, that the horſes could ſcarcely drag them from the camp: at a ſnail's pace they at length proceeded, halting ſo frequently, that it was long

Helter ſkelter the baggage was pack'd up in haſte,
On the backs of the mules quick their burdens were plac'd;
And all the fuſs that enſued, to deſcribe, would require
The aid of the nine, and Apollo's own lyre.
How the French muſt have caper'd next day, when they found
All the guns, wine, and baggage, we left on the ground.

before the column could be ſaid to have gained ground. Near *Lefferinchouke* the whole was ſome time detained, waiting for the third regiment of guards, which had been, as well as the loyal emigrants, on piquet at the village of *Tetteghem*. Upon the arrival of that battalion, and the picquets on duty in the batteries, the troops renewed their tedious march. So much were they delayed by baggage-waggons overturning, and the various other circumſtances, that they were the whole night traverſing a diſtance of barely *eleven miles*. Had they been attacked in that ſituation, the reſult muſt have been unfortunate, though the Republicans might not have been able exactly to have driven them into the ocean, for they would have contended with men who would, at that moment, have fought them deſperately. The rear-guard was conducted by the late Sir WILLIAM ERSKINE; and the loſs of the baggage fell chiefly upon the cavalry under his command. That brave veteran exerted himſelf, on this trying occaſion, to the utmoſt; and no man could have poſſeſſed, in a higher degree, the confidence and good opinion of his troops. He had, at that time, ſerved in thirty-five campaigns, without ever receiving the ſlighteſt wound, though his perſon was upon every occaſion as much expoſed as that of the private ſoldier.

Between *Adinkercke* and Furnes, the army halted on the 9th of September. The baggage was then ordered to Oſtend, and ſo much was dreaded the conſequences of this unfortunate retreat, that the military cheſt had been carried on board a frigate in that port, and preparations were made to *embark* the ſtores there alſo. Several of the batt-men then proceeding with their carts and loaded horſes, were overtaken by the tide, and loſt their lives; and many, who themſelves eſcaped, were unable to ſave, from the advancing waves, the property with which they were entruſted: while thoſe who in ſafety reached Oſtend, were, for ſome ſtrange and unaccountable reaſon, refuſed admittance to the town.

It was at the time reported, and in general it is *now* believed, that the Duke's army, from the time his Royal Highneſs left Prince COBOURG, to undertake that ſiege, for ever to be grievouſly lamented, loſt, ere the retreat was made ſecure, by *fever*, the fire of the enemy, and other misfortunes, at leaſt 10,000 men.

Not to mention the heaps of good powder and ball ;
But I ne'er ſhould have done could I reckon up all.
Sir J-M-IE the pen will reſume without fail,
So expect from that *wonderful ſcribe* the detail :
To him I refer you ; ſuffice it to add,
The family ſav'd all the baggage they had.
Our motions entirely depend on the foe,
So none can divine where we're likely to go.
But quarters ſo ſnug and ſo much to my mind,
As thoſe at Eſtreux, Where, alas ! ſhall we find ?
For the preſent, heart-broken, I bid you farewell,
But in hopes live, ere long, better tidings to tell.

LETTER IV.

HEAD QUARTERS, MENIN, *Oct.* 5, 1793.

*A Council of War.—Intrepid Determinations.—*BEAULIEU *seizes upon Menin.*
A settled Calm succeeds a threatened Storm.

TO and fro' toss'd,* like waves by each opposite wind,
We are settled at length, much to ev'ry man's mind.
To be sure, we have had a most terrible dance,
To escape from these *devils incarnate* of France;
But the tables are turn'd, brighter prospects appear,
As LUCY, well pleas'd shall, and presently, hear:
At Thorout alarm'd by this dreadful narration,*
That Mynheer, soundly thrash'd, had abandoned his
station†,

* To add to every other unfortunate circumstance attending the retreat from Dunkirk, Admiral MACBRIDE arrived at *Furnes* the very day the Duke's army had encamped near that town, so that the fleet had appeared in sight exactly at the moment when *all was lost*, and it could not possibly have been of any service.

The army was in motion at four o'clock in the morning, on the 10th of September, and took up fresh ground. On the 11th, intelligence arrived of an attack having been made upon Ypres; and the troops proceeded to the relief of that fortress, but they had scarcely reached *Furnes*, when an aid-de-camp brought intelligence, that the French had abandoned their enterprize, in consequence of a successful attack which the Austrians, under General BEAULIEU, had made upon their posts near Lille. On the 12th, the Duke's army moved towards *Dixmude*; and late at night on the 14th, formed *en Bevouac* near Thorout, having on the march been joined by the 19th, 57th, and a detachment from the 42d regiment from Ostend.

† A general attack was made upon the Prince of ORANGE's posts along the river Lys, on the 12th, and without making by any means a

Not conceiving it prudent or ſafe to remain,
From Menin he fled, ſcow'ring over the plain;
Which proves 'tis a falſe and ridiculous notion,
That a Dutchman reſembles *a ſnail* in his motion.
'Twas thought, on this news, we ſhould have a debate,
So a council was held in the Chamber of State;
Some voted to Bruges to march, or Oſtend,
Thinking all we could hope, was thoſe towns to defend;
But Sir Wullie aroſe, with a ſteady grave face,
And ſaid, "De ye ken this ſame Menin's a place
Of the utmoſt importance, and troth I adviſe,
That we march, and thoſe d——n'd Sons of Licence chaſtiſe.
Aw our laurels by this, we at once ſhall regain:
Having teld ye my mind, lads, I'll ſit down again."

proper reſiſtance, the Dutch troops abandoning Menin, fell back upon *Bruges* and *Ghent*.

So greatly had the panic ſpread, that they took the horſes from their guns, and gallopped off in ſtraggling parties, in a moſt irregular and unſoldier-like manner. Their flight through *Courtray* alarmed the inhabitants, and many of them naturally conceiving that the French were at the heels of their *defenders*, abandoned their property and fled to Bruges, where the commandant, finding the Dutch troops paſſing through the town, ordered the Ghent gate to be cloſed, and by that means detained them in his garriſon. A cornet of their cavalry carrying the ſtandard of his regiment, was met *alone on full gallop* along the Chauſſée, leading from *Courtray* to Bruges, by a Britiſh aid-de-camp, who with difficulty prevailed upon him to check his ſpeed, and relate the reaſon of his unaccountable appearance. "Venture not further," ſaid the valiant ſtandard bearer, "for we have been driven by a ſuperior force from Menin; and the French muſt by this time be in poſſeſſion of Courtray; for my part," he added, "I ſhall certainly proceed to *Sluys* in *Holland*, for all is loſt, and there is now no nearer place of ſafety." It is alſo a notorious fact, for the narrator was a witneſs to it, that *a Dutch officer*, finding himſelf encloſed within the *walls of Bruges*, came pale and trembling to the quarters of the *commandant*,

The —— ſmil'd applauſe: and Sir J-M-IE demanded
Permiſſion to ſpeak, which was not countermanded.
" 'Twas a pity," he ſaid, " it appear'd to him plain,
Our Allies were unable their poſt to maintain:
But, we ſure might *retake it*, or *let it alone*,
He was much at a loſs which *was beſt* to be done;
In ſhort, what the——, might think proper to do,
Was ſurely the *properest* plan to purſue."
And J-HN-T-NE, PR-CE J-HN, nay *we all*, to a man,
Declar'd he had ſtruck out a *wonderful* plan.
The ——, then triumphantly roſe from his ſeat,
And ſaid, " 'tis reſolv'd—we'll the enemy meet."
After which each man preſſing his couch for the night,
In dreams gather'd laurels and *ſhar'd* in the fight.
PR-CE J-HN, in a very great ſtyle, the next day,
The orders gave out, and the troops march'd away.*
But we heard, when our line had to Rouſſelair drawn near,
The roaring of cannon, diſtinctly and clear.

and, *riſum teneatis*, falling on his knees before him, requeſted that the gates might be again thrown open, and himſelf be ſuffered to eſcape!

* On the 15th, at day break, agreeable to the determination of the council held at *Thorout*, the troops were under arms, and advanced towards *Rouſſelair*, in order to co-operate with General BEAULIEU to retake Menin, and the different poſts abandoned by the Dutch. Lieutenant *General Erbbach*, with 4 battalions of Auſtrian and Heſſian infantry, *preceded* by 4 *ſquadrons* of Britiſh cavalry, puſhed on to *Ledeghem*; and Prince COBOURG, by the fall of *Le Queſnoi*, which place ſurrendered at diſcretion on the 7th of September, after he had defeated the French with a loſs of 3000 men, and 11 pieces of cannon, near *Villiers en Couchie*, being enabled to puſh on towards *Lille* with a large body of troops; it was determined to attack the Republicans in every direction, *at once*, and force them to re-croſs *the Lys*.

And found to our joy, my dear LUCY I own,
From BEAULIEU,* thy champions *equality*, flown.

* Early in the Morning, on the 15th of September, the French, to the number of, from 12 to 14,000 men, advanced from *Wevelghem* to Bisseghem, attacking briskly the advanced posts on the left of BEAULIEU's army; that General, however, by dispatching speedy reinforcements, prevented the post of *Bisseghem* from being forced; when the Republicans had recourse to their numerous train of heavy artillery, endeavouring, by a tremendous cannonade, to dislodge the Austrians from their position behind the *Lauterberg*. At that moment their left flank was turned by a corps of Austrian infantry, led on by Captain MALKSHAM of the regiment of BEAULIEU, who immediately commenced a brisk discharge of cannon and of musquetry, with such effect, that they began to waver, and BEAULIEU, with the main body of his army, charging them in front, they fled precipitately. They were pursued to the very gates of Menin, and about four o'clock in the afternoon, the Austrians attacked the place with their heavy guns and howitzers; at the same time assaulting the ramparts at the gate of Roussslair: the enemy, without any further resistance, evacuating the town, re-passed the Lys, leaving behind them, at the bridge, a weak rear-guard. The Imperialists then entered Menin at the gate of Courtray, and General *Erbbach* arriving with his corps, they crossed the river, when two of the *British* squadrons joined the Austrian Hussars in pursuit of the Republicans towards Roneq. BEAULIEU lost in this affair about 100 men, great numbers of prisoners were taken from the French, with artillery and ammunition waggons, and in killed and wounded they must have suffered severely, while great numbers were drowned in their endeavours to repass the Lys.

On the 16th, the Duke of YORK's army was in motion, and passing through the town, encamped near Menin, when the picquets were again advanced to *Wervicke*.

Prince COBOURG wishing to close his operations for the year with the reduction of *Maubeuge*, succeeded on the 29th of September in passing the Sambre, and in driving into the entrenched camp, surrounding the walls of that fortress, all the advanced picquets of the enemy.

The different columns of his army were in motion at day-break; CLAIRFAIT's crossed the river at *Berlaimont*, and meeting with very little resistance, took up a position near *Ameries*, between *Aulnois* and *Bachamps*. General Count COLLEREDO's passed over at *Pont* and Haumont; and surprising the French camp near *St. Remi Malbati*, took possession of their tents, baggage, and 9 pieces of artillery: unable to pursue them, owing to the nature of the ground, only a few men were taken prisoners, and not above 100 killed and wounded. The Austrians of that Column encamped between *Haumont* and the *Bois de Beaufort*.

In another direction, (above *Mauberge*) General DE LA TOUR's column crossed the Sambre, between *Jeumont* and *Marpent*, taking also a

So we took up our ground without firing a ſhot,
And ſafely and ſnugly poſſeſſion have got.
For a time, our good fortune I ſcarce could believe,
As appearances often the ſenſes deceive:
But ye Gods! we enjoy once again, it is true,
Thoſe pleaſures we heretofore knew at Eſtreux!
Good living, ſound port girl, and nothing to do.
When retreating from Dunkirk, we felt very ſore,
But our creſts are erected as high as before.
At Head-Quarters a feldzeug appears in each hat,
Tho' faith we've but little pretentions to that;
For a feldzeug was never retreating obtain'd,
But points out the champion who *conqueſts* has gain'd.

French camp by ſurpriſe, near *Requignies*; the troops in their purſuit of the Republicans, killing 300 men, according to Lord ELGIN's ſtatement. This column then took up a poſition near *Cerfontaine*, occupying alſo the Bois de *Bonpere*, near *Rouſies*; and its left flank extending beyond *Ferriere la petite*, communicated with the corps commanded by Count COLLEREDO. A fourth column advancing from *Charleroi*, under Colonel SECKENDORF, formed, without much oppoſition, near *Colleret*.

Thus, with a loſs of *only* 50 *men*, in killed and wounded, the inveſtiture of *Maubeuge* was happily effected.

On the 14th of September, an attack was made by the French upon the Duke of BRUNSWICK's poſition near *Pirmaſens*. By a very judicious *manœuvre*, the Pruſſians ſurrounded their aſſailants, when 3000 men grounded their arms, and ſurrendered themſelves as priſoners of war. The Duke then puſhing forwards, ſurpriſed a French camp at *Bitche*, and burnt their tents and baggage found there. The attacks made by the enemy, were that day, as uſual, general; and they were in every directions defeated. The regiment called the *Sans Culottes*, was cut to pieces by a detachment of the corps commanded by General Count KALKRUTH.

The Spaniards had alſo obtained a decided victory, near *Truillas*, on the 22d. The Republicans having, at ſeven in the morning, commenced the attack with an army amounting to above 20,000 men, divided into five columns. They were repulſed and defeated by the Spaniſh cavalry, and the corps of infantry, commanded by *Count de la Union*, and *Don Juan Courten*, with a loſs, eſtimated in the Madrid Gazettes, at between 5 and 6,000 men, including 1500 priſoners, with ten pieces of cannon, ſeveral cart loads of ſmall arms, and a great quantity of baggage.

Thank my ſtars, 'tis now fix'd when we cloſe this campaign;
The family *all* viſit England again.
Together, dear LUCY, we then ſhall enjoy
Thoſe pleaſures of *London* which never can cloy.
En attendant adieu, may dull hours paſs away,
Quick as thought flies, for lovers but ill-brook delay.

P. S. " There are," I can ſcarcely believe, but am told
There are, " who *our ſecrets* pretend to unfold.
And Sir J-M-IE forgot, as they *daringly* ſay,
To order the tranſports *in harbour* to ſtay.
He directions, I own, had receiv'd to detain
The ſhips till he heard from St. James's again.
And tho' to be ſure when arriv'd at Oſtend,
His orders he did not *immediately* ſend.
From this *petite diſtraction* he rous'd on the road,
And ſent off a poſt-boy to POPHAM's* abode.
Nor was it his fault all the tranſports had ſail'd,
Having *much* to remember, his memory fail'd."

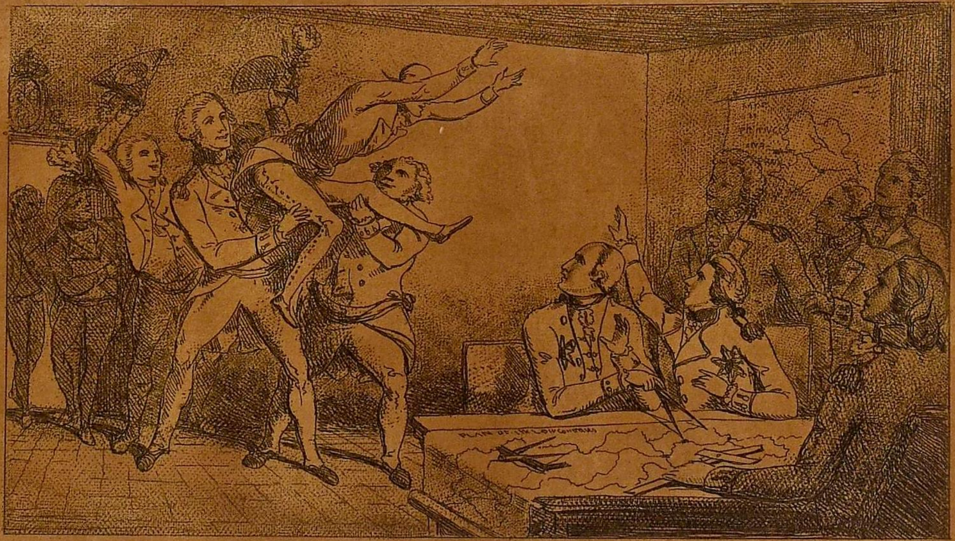
* Lieut. POPHAM, Agent of transports at Oſtend.

LETTER. V.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ENGLEFONTAINE. *Oct.* 21, 1793.

An unexpected movement—Reiterated republican attacks en Masse, produce bad news from Clairfait—Consolation afforded by a good dinner—Retreat from Maubeuge—A Feu de joie.

OUR hopes to rest tranquilly snug, were in vain.
And faith *this* has proved a most bustling campaign,
All places to us tho' are nearly the same,
While the cooks can keep up and the mules fall not lame.
Inur'd to gall'd *Withers*, no torment they feel
From use, as fair Jane cry'd when skinning an Eel,
And *warbles* and *swellings* 'twere folly to heed,
As long as they're sturdily pleas'd to proceed.
As to me, I feel happy *new worlds* to explore,
And traverse those lands I may traverse no more.
For trav'ling, we're told, gives new force to the mind,
And pleasure as well as improvement we find.
Variety too, is our chief's darling passion,
So changing our Quarters *of course* is the fashion:.
While F——x we are certain will never be quiet,
Till he gets a good chateau, if once he can spy it.
A propos—he has join'd us, I think, since my last,
And J-HN-NE's not pleas'd that he gallopp'd so fast.
For he thought he was sure to succeed poor MONCRIEF,
And F-x's appointment has fill'd him with grief.
Nay he swears tho' he's on the best terms in the world,
With the ——, he'll no longer have deputy hurl'd



A Council of War interrupted.

Pub.d by Cadell & Davies Strand

In his teeth; but his office is fix'd to resign:
Yet he'll keep it, as surely as I shall keep mine.
Too well does he know all the charms of this life,
To change and be rous'd by the four o'clock fife*,
Which rouses the fags to parade till *broad day*,
And with Grinney's delight whistles Morpheus away,
Too well does he know *to the State* of what † use
Are his talents and pencil their aid to refuse.
No BOBBY your *fix'd resolution* revoke,
When you talk *of retiring*, you mean it in joke ‡.

* At 4 o'clock in the morning, while the Duke's army was encamped at *Englefontain*, orders were issued for the line to be formed in front of the tents, and for the troops to remain under arms till dismissed by the commanding officers of corps. The guards were informed of the hour to turn out, by a solitary fifer, who marched, playing a dismal tune, along the streets of their encampment.

† A number of the Aid-de-camps, and officers on the staff, composing the family of His royal highness the commander in chief, voted the D. Q. M. G. to have been of great service to the army, and decreed him the honor of being *chaired*, to shew the *high sense* entertained of his abilities; accordingly, at the *Abbaye St. Martin a Tournay*, upon the British first advancing into Flanders, they carried him thro' a long suite of apartments, crossing their hands to form a seat.

The Cavalcade at length came to a door *found closed*, which pushing open, the Aid de camps advanced, e're they discovered their mistake, upon *Prince Cobourg*, *Prince Hohenlobe—General Mack—*, and other chieftains, forming with His royal highness *a council of war*; eager to retreat again as speedily as possible, they disengaged their hands, and left the *highly honored* Colonel to his fate, who, hurled from his lofty throne, was landed *on the table* round which the *warlike leaders* were assembled; who were thus alarmed and interrupted as the plate describes.

‡ This was the general opinion; but Col. JOHNSTONE, when the command of the 1st battalion of the 3d guards devolved upon him, by the promotion of Col. WATSON, to the rank of Major General, resigned his office on the staff, much to his credit. He had certainly been of great use to the brigade while in Holland, as he perfectly understood the language, having been formerly in the service of their High Mightinesses in the Scotch brigade. We have now to lament his death, which happened very suddenly, just as he was preparing to return to England on promotion.

As our lot was the poſts on the Lys to defend,
We conceiv'd, as I hinted, our labours would end.
For the Carmagnols all, are more eaſily led,
Againſt *blue* and *orange*, than Britiſh ſpun *red*.
But our Horſe were demanded by COBOURG the great!
As the fate of Maubeuge became doubtful of late.
So we forwarded kindly, our *infantry* too,
That the one might diſperſe, and the other purſue.
(The dragoons, by the bye, were the forces he wanted,
That the foot would be welcome, we took it for granted.)
And* packing them off without further delay,
They halted at Camphain, to breathe by the way,
Then our route we purſuing, reach'd Engleſontaine,
Where the news we receiv'd made each breaſt throb with
pain,
The dinner was ready *at four*, by the clocks,
And *ſix* at the leaſt, by the ſtomach of F——x:
When tidings were brought that the knives, forks, and
plates
Were delay'd by ſome ill natur'd prank of the fates;
And a duſt cover'd Kaiſer reported † CLAIRFAIT,
Had been briſkly attack'd, and was forc'd to give way,

* The movement of the army from Menin, took place at day break on the 10th of October, the troops were that night cantoned at *Eſtabourg*, *Pecq*, and other villages towards *Tournay*; on the 11th they were encamp'd on the plains of *Ciſoine* near *Camphain*, and halting till the 14th, marched and were cantoned *at St. Amand*; on the 15th they were encamp'd at *Soltain* near Valenciennes, and on the 16th they took up a poſition near Engleſontaine, between *Le Queſnoi* and *Landrecies*, previouſly occupied by ſome Auſtrian Regiments which were advanced to reinforce CLAIRFAIT.

† The Auſtrians, compoſing CLAIRFAIT's column, had been inceſſantly engaged from the 15th, and though repulſed with great ſlaughter,

That the ſiege would moſt likely, e're morning, be rais'd!
At this you may fancy we all were amaz'd.
None can ſtate what affliction had follow'd I'm ſure;
But the ſound of *a waggon* effected a cure,
For the waggon contain'd the knives, forks, ſpoons, and
diſhes,
And dinner ſoon follow'd to crown all our wiſhes.
Our places we took, and each man had his ſhare
Of *ven'ſon*,* *mock turtle*, *ſoups*, *turbot*, and *hare*.
No more did we think of Maubeuge or CLAIRFAIT,
But drank off our wine, and retir'd till next day.
Two boys on a plank you muſt often have ſeen,
This pois'd high in air, on the ground that has been;

and a loſs of 12 pieces of cannon, the Republicans renewed their aſſaults with freſh troops, favoured by an impenetrable foreſt, *(La Haye d'Aveſnes)* the ſkirts of which they had defended by numerous pieces of heavy artillery.

Againſt the left of Gen. CLAIRFAIT's corps, their efforts were directed, and after having been repeatedly driven from the village of *Wattigweis*, they ultimately pouring down *en Maſſe*, carried and maintained the poſt. All communication between this column, and that commanded by Gen. De la Tour, obſerving the entrenched Camp near Maubeuge, being thus cut off, Prince COBOURG thought it expedient to abandon totally his enterpriſe, and raiſe the ſiege; accordingly at night, on the 18th of October, the Auſtrians croſſing the river, took up a poſition on the left banks of the Sambre. Twenty four pieces of heavy Cannon and two Howitzers were taken by the Auſtrians, in their ſeveral engagements; the ſyſtem of *defending guns*, has, indeed, been long exploded by the French, for they at all times think themſelves repaid for the loſs of their Artillery by gaining a few additional ſhots at their opponents; continuing therefore to fire till the *laſt moment*, they frequently abandon their field pieces.

CLAIRFAIT loſt at leaſt 2000 men in killed and wounded—It was reported confidently at the time, that, when the different corps of Auſtrians were in motion, the French *dreading* the conſequences of a general attack which they conceived Prince COBOURG to have meditated, abandoned their entrenched camp; if ſo, at the *ſame moment* both armies muſt have been retreating.

* An exact *Bill of Fare*.

Quick as thought they've chang'd places and balanc'd so
well,
No eyes could discover which rose or which fell.
So, good news *on bad* flowing fast, left us here,
Not knowing if *luck* or *misfortune* was near.
We determin'd, at length, by a brisk feu de joie,
The effects of Prince COBOURG's retreat to destroy,
And prove the advantage we'd clearly obtain'd,
As WURMSER the lines had at Weissenbourg gain'd *.
Thrice we fir'd in the air, thrice like heroes huzza'd!
So loud it must surely the French have dismay'd.——
O, winter with icicles crown'd come, to Ghent
Drive the Fags, and let us, Gods! to England be sent;
How I pant for the period when lock'd in your arms,
I shall find a reward for these dreadful alarms!

* At three o'clock in the morning, on the 13th of October, General WURMSER made his projected attack on the formidable lines extending from *Lauterbourg* on the left banks of the Rhine, to *Weissenbourg*, and the event, after an engagement of fourteen hours, was brilliant and successful. By assault, *the Austrians*, in six separate columns, carried the numerous redoubts which had been constructed in front of the Republican encampments. When the largest was taken the tents were all found standing, and the colours flying in the front, which, with 26 pieces of artillery of a *large Calibre*, and a great quantity of ammunition, fell into the hands of the Imperialists.—The town of Lauterbourg was abandoned by the enemy, and taken possession of about 4 o'clock in the evening. *Weissenbourg* held the assailants at bay for several hours; from the redoubts by which it was defended, the French kept up a heavy and incessant cannonade, and part of the town was burnt before it was evacuated, the Republicans set fire to all their Magazines both in the place and at Alstad.

The total loss sustained by Gen. WURMSER, was estimated at between 7, and 800 men in killed and wounded, while the Republicans were reported to have had above 3,000 killed, and near 600 prisoners were taken by the Austrians: intelligence of this event was forwarded to Prince COBOURG, and the Duke of YORK, at the very moment when the Imperialists, before Maubeuge, had received their orders to cross the river Sambre, and a feu de joie in consequence was fired just as the *siege was raised*, which might have been distinctly heard by the French garrison of *Landrecies*.

LETTER VI.

HEAD QUARTERS, ABBAYE, ST. MARTIN,
TOURNAY, *Oct.* 26, 1793.

The Aid-de-Camp enraged, informs Miss Lucy of the Insolence discernable in Camp.—High Treason defined.—Adieu to St. Martins, Adieu to Tournay.

'TIS strange all the malcontents gather and join,
To blame us for quitting the plains of Cisoing*.
And say that the safety of Flanders depended,
On having that frontier completely defended.
'Tis a comfort however, this proves very plain,
Their censures are groundless, and this I'll maintain.
A soldier *on service* must hardships endure,
And has no right to grumble, or mutter, I'm sure.
Tho' forc'd in cold weather to sleep on the ground,
The tents left behind, and no straw to be found;
With scarcely a batt horse allow'd in the line,
He came here to suffer, and wherefore repine?
He rather should glory, to smart in a cause,
That crowns his commanders with well earn'd applause.
Who can judge by events too, when oft LUCE, mere chance
Proves we're forc'd to *retire* where we meant to advance,
The chapter of accidents, thus without doubt
Alone, from Menin our confederates forc'd out.

* The possession of the plains of *Cissoing* was deemed of infinite consequence to the allies; they were particularly favourable to Cavalry and from their centrical situation as well as their proximity to Lille, (*the village* being only 3 leagues and a quarter from that fortress,) troops stationed there could, in a short time, advance to any point menaced by the enemy.

Elſe Hanover's heroes, bewhiſker'd and fierce,
When the French puſh'd in *carte* would have anſwer'd in
tierce.
Not a man would have ſhewn ſuch a daſtardly ſoul,
As to dance like the Dutch when they pip'd *Carmagnol**.
Apropos, liſt to what has been ſaid of Mynheer,
By theſe croakers illib'ral, and ever ſevere;

* "We have made them dance the carmagnol" is an expreſſion very commonly made uſe of by the Republicans, when boaſting of their victories. The inhabitants of *Menin*, when the Duke of YORK's army had received orders to move from its poſition, covering that town, foretold, that the moment the French were acquainted with the departure of the Britiſh, they would pay them another *civic viſit*, and many of them wiſely removed their property. As they ſuſpected, the advanced poſts of the corps left in that poſition, compoſed of Hanoverian troops and Auſtrians, were, on the 21ſt of October, aſſaulted, and the chief efforts of the Republicans were directed againſt *Wervicke* and *Mount Hallum*; the *latter* overlooks Menin, and *once* poſſeſſed, renders the place in ſome degree untenable. Though repulſed in their firſt advances, renewing their attacks, they, on the 22d, carried *Wervicke*, when, without defending Mount Hallum, the allies took up a poſition to protect Courtray, once more abandoning Menin, notwithſtanding its works had been repaired, and new ones conſtructed with great labour. *Ciſſoing* was at the ſame time menaced by detachments from the *camp of Madelaine*, and the poſts of *Willem* and *Nomain* were forced, but on the 23d, retaken. Their unſucceſsful efforts in that quarter coſt the French at leaſt 400 men, and the Inniſkillings, with the 16th regiment of Britiſh light dragoons, aſſiſted to repulſe them. A column had alſo advanced from Lille upon Orchies, but was driven back by the Auſtrians under Gen. KRAY, with a loſs of five pieces of artillery. Theſe attacks were made in every direction *at once* by orders from the National Convention, and on the 22d, detachments from their camps near Dunkirk, poſſeſſed themſelves of *Furnes*, advancing upon Nieuport, where they were checked in their career by inundations. *Fort la Knocke*, and *Dixmude*, were at the ſame time abandoned, and the troops protecting them, fell back to *Thoront*, covering the town of Bruges.

Intelligence of Flanders being thus ſeriouſly menaced, arriving on the 23d, the Duke of YORK's army quitted *Engleſontaine*, and *countermarching*, was again encamped near Valenciennes.

Who in council aſſembled, in *centrical tent*,
To their ſplenetic humours give ſnarlingly vent;
But let them beware tho' they're free with the Dutch,
Not to looſen the reins of their tongues over much;
For we've *mark'd them*, and LUCY, *promotion* is ſweet,
So thoſe free-ſpoken gentry had beſt be diſcreet.
They'd uſe ORANGE's men they declare, as ſmok'd cheeſe
Is by dairy maids us'd, who on mice wiſh to ſeize.
For the Dutch would as ſurely French armies entice
To a ſnare, as ſmok'd cheeſe would draw pilfering mice.
Their alluſions are clear as the ſun in full blaze;
They'd as well ſay at once our allies *run all ways*,
And ergo receive *tant des viſites Françoiſe*.
Such inſolence raiſes, I own it, my paſſion,
And I can't for my life, forbear laying the laſh on;
Till the ground was mark'd out, as we're told they complain,
At having been drenc'd* a few hours in the rain.
As if we the elements rul'd, and with eaſe
Could call down fine weather whenever we pleaſe.
The fact was, to pleaſe the good folks *à Tournay*;
In the evening we loung'd to a box at the play,
And debating on meaſures to proſper the ſtate,
Midnight oil was conſum'd, nor was *down* preſs'd, till late;
And thus, by a trifling indulgence in bed,
Theſe unmerited cenſures—drew on his head.

* On the 24th, the tents were pitched at the *camp of Maulde*, near *St. Amand*, and at 3 o'clock in the morning on the 25th, the troops were put once more in motion. The diſtance they had to march not exceeding 8 miles and a quarter, they reached their ground at *Eer*, near Tournay, much ſooner than, according to all appearances had been expected, for halting on the *Chauſſée*, they were for ſome time expoſed to drenching rain, before the lines of the encampment were traced out.

To ev'ry department they'd lay down the law,
And canvas the bread, nay the forage and ſtraw;
'Tis envy, ſheer envy, that loud makes them cry,
And induc'd them an Aid-de-Camp's cart, by the bye,
To turn out by main force from their line, 'twas *high treaſon*,
And this was, forſooth, what they gave for a reaſon.
Their own were *by orders* forbade to be there,
And a *family man* in their hardſhips ſhould ſhare;
Yet nothing could equal his great condeſcenſion,
To his *ci devant reg'ment;* and wondrous attention,
As he paſs'd by ſome officers chatting together,
He ſaid " How d'ye do, and remark'd 'twas fine weather."
BR--K W-TS-N they tell us, his deputies too,
Has left all his intricate bus'neſs to do,
And *hopp'd off* to Bruſſels, le cœur toujours gaîe,
While the horſes look pitiouſly round them for hay.
So ſharp are their ribs, and ſo rough are their coats,
You perceive that they've taſted more whipcord than oats *,
But BROOKEY will tell them a *plauſible* tale,
And make them believe that a flail's *not* a flail!
To Camphain † to morrow our rout we purſue,
And bid to the monks of St, Martin's adieu.
It grieves me to leave the good fathers I own,
Where ſuch comfort and real enjoyment we've known,

* When at the camp of Maulde no forage could be poſſibly procured for the worn-down and jaded horſes, till the batt men with difficulty procured a very ſcanty portion from the *Auſtrian commiſſaries!*

† The plains of Ciſſoing were, it was apprehended, in poſſeſſion of the French, who had eſtabliſhed poſts along the marque from Lille. To re-occupy thoſe plains, and to retake *Menin*, the Duke's forces were, on the 27th, in motion, and advanced towards Camphain.

While Flanders was thus threatened with invaſion, the accounts of General WURMSER's operations on the left banks of the Rhine were

This change, tho' unpleaſant, I'll bear like a man,
And make myſelf happy as long as I can.
All the news, when we're ſettled, my charmer ſhall hear,
'Till when, I remain, her adorer ſincere!

favourable. *Haguenau* was evacuated on the 17th of October, and the Republicans retreating took up a poſition behind the river *Zorn*, which runs through *Brumpt*. Perceiving *an interval* between the advanced corps (amounting to about 6 000 men, formed under *Gen. Mazaroe's*) and the main body of the Auſtrians, which had puſhed on, upon the fall of *Haguaneau*, the French paſſed the river, and with their whole force aſſaulted *Gen. Mazaroe's*, with a view, by gaining his flank, of cutting him off from the grand army. After an engagement of ſeven hours, upon Gen. WURMSUR's moving forwards, they recroſſed the Zorn, with a loſs of above 800 men in killed and wounded, evacuating the heights and town of Brumpt. WURMSUR in this affair ſuſtained a loſs of near 400 Auſtrians. The Prince of *Waldeck*'s corps at the ſame time advancing from the poſt of *Setz*, along the Rhine, took *Drugenheim*, and driving in the outpoſts, effected the inveſtiture of Fort Louis. The troops behind the Zorn retreated in the night under the very walls of *Straſbourg*, and Gen. WURMSUR's army encamped within 3 leagues of that ſtrong fortreſs.

LETTER VII.

HEAD-QUARTERS, CAMPHAIN, *Nov.* 8, 1793.

Advance to Camphain.—Affair of Lannoi.—Recapture of Menin.—Spirited Defence of Nieuport.—Redemption of Flanders.—Close of the Campaign.

"ARMS and the man I ſing," whoſe Veteran bands,
Redeem'd from Frenchmans' gripe, fair Belgia's lands!
O! to deſcribe the ſcenes, my muſe deſcend,
An humble votary for once befriend.
Aid him to ſhew what valiant troops could do,
And let his praiſe their glorious ſteps purſue.
Say, how they drove the foe from Ciſſoing's * plain;
Their ſpeed impeded by the heaps of ſlain;

* On the 27th of October, an advanced ſquadron of the 2d, or Queen's regiment of dragoon guards, fell in at the village of *Sanghin*, with a picquet of French infantry, formed of 6 officers, and 150 men, on their retreat acroſs the plains towards *Lezernes*. They killed near 50 on the ſpot, and with their broad ſwords cut up the reſt in ſuch a manner (as they had formed a hollow ſquare, and made a brave defence) that not above a dozen men eſcaped unhurt. In a moſt mangled ſtate, nearly 100 miſerable objects were brought as priſoners to the Duke's head-quarters; another ſquadron of the *Queen's*, and ſome Auſtrian Huſſars, having joined in the purſuit. The latter troops, keeping back till their enemies were thrown into confuſion by the Britiſh charge, were then guilty of moſt unpardonable cruelties, for after cutting with their ſabres till they had tired both hands, by way of *reſpite* from their labours, they drew their piſtols from their holſters, and fired into the heaps of wounded. Every poſſible aſſiſtance was given to the ſuffering Frenchmen at Camphain, all the ſurgeons in the camp were ſent to dreſs their wounds, and his Royal Highneſs, the commander in chief, humanely ordered wine and food to be diſtributed amongſt them, ere they were carried off to Tournay. Inſtances of ferocity, and more than ſavage barbarity, in the light cavalry of his Imperial Majeſty, were very frequent; the following is one amongſt a number that occured during the Campaign of 1793. They were generally entruſted with the conveyance of priſoners, and one of

Till mercy bade the conquerors forbear,
And as they knew to vanquiſh, know how to ſpare.
My heroics muſt charm you, dear LUCE, I contend,
Yet I think to my old ſtyle again I'll deſcend.
The ſublime to the Cheeſe Mongers paſſeth away,
While CRAMBO like this, lives its year and a day.
Be it mine to compoſe then in durable lays,
As I ne'er could the drooping ſurvive of my bays;
One ſprig, midſt my laurels will flouriſh I hope,
Tho' I aim not with Anna Matilda to cope;
Nor have I, like fair Laura, my Trumpet, to tell
How my works are admir'd, by that *Oracle* BELL!
Permit not, dear LUCE, any blue ſtocking dame,
To bandy about my unfortunate name;
Where DELLA's triumphantly ſeated in ſtate,
Spare, ſpare me the curſe, on his nod to await.
Rather into the ſea let my letters be thrown,
To NEPTUNE directed, and *pendant* a ſtone.
But I feel myſelf rous'd, 'tis a call from the Muſe,
And your time with digreſſions, no more I'll abuſe.
Moſt wonderful feats * ſince my laſt we've atchiev'd,
Have re-taken Menin, and Nieuport have reliev'd.

them having charge of a wounded officer, reined in his horſe as he was conducting him, and preſenting a piſtol and ball cartridge, ordered the unfortunate Republican to load and then return it. His wiſhes were complied with, and the wretch, in cold blood, blew out the unprotected Frenchman's brains with the contents!

* General WALMODEN had, on the 26th of October, advanced to Courtray, and placing himſelf at the head of the forces which had re-occupied the camp at *Menin*, an attack to re-occupy that town was, under his directions, intended to have taken place upon *the 28th*, in conjunction with the corps under General BUSHE, at *Warcoin*, and that commanded by the Heſſian General DE WURMB, near *Thorout*. The Republicans, however, croſſing the canal of *Ypres*, and approaching *Nieu-*

Driv'n the French from Lannoi, in a ſtyle Brittanique,
And depriv'd of five guns *La Nouvelle Republique.*
But my friend, in whoſe temper is ſeen to unite
The lion and lamb loſt his arm in my fight.
In the field, who on earth more courageous could be,
In camp who ſo mild, who ſo gentle as he?

port, General De Wurmb fell back upon *Ghiſtel*, to cover Bruges and Oſtend; conſequently the attack *on Menin* was delayed.

Nieuport was garriſoned by the 53d regiment of Britiſh infantry, muſtering at the time about 4,000 men, and two weak battalions of Heſſian infantry, under Colonel De Wurmb, *the commandant.* The firſt approaches to inveſt the fortreſs were made by two columns of the Republicans from *Dunkirk*, upon the 22d of October; and the Emigrants and Heſſians occupying *Furnes*, were, after making a very ſteady reſiſtance, driven back by a ſuperior force. Under a heavy fire kept up upon them, till they reached the very gates of Nieuport, they retreated in the greateſt order. A few ſhot and ſhells were then diſcharged againſt the town; the beſiegers, however, without having done much damage, were driven back by the firing from the ramparts. In the night they conſtructed a temporary *banquette*, and mounting a few field pieces and howitzers, after an ineffectual ſummons, on the 23d, fired briſkly on the place. Recourſe was then had to the inundations, which obliged the Republicans to change their ground, and filing round by Furnes they took up a poſition on the coaſt ſide of *Nieuport*. Advancing to the number of about 2,000 men, upon the 25th, they carried ſeveral of the *out-works*, keeping up an inceſſant fire of muſquetry from day-break till five o'clock in the evening, when darkneſs forced them to deſiſt. The 53d loſt on that day *Lieut. Latham*, and 12 rank and file in killed, and Capt. *Ferguſon*, and 32 in wounded. Under cover of a farm houſe, and an extenſive barn, the French conſtructed in the night, a formidable battery, and at day-break on the 26th, opening ſeveral heavy guns and mortars, commenced, and inceſſantly continued, the bombardment of the fortreſs, which was much deſtroyed, and many of the houſes converted into heaps of ruins.

On the 28th, the firing was particularly briſk, and on the 29th, Sir Charles Grey having arrived with reinforcements at Oſtend, diſpatched Major General Dundas with the 42d regiment, and 4 light companies to ſupport the garriſon; ammunition and a ſupply of men were alſo forwarded by Admiral M'Bride. They arrived about noon, and in the night the troops diſcovered from the ramparts, that the farm houſe was in flames, as well as ſeveral barns and other buildings in the rear of the beſiegers. This circumſtance induced the commandant to think they had retreated, which was at day-light on the 30th, found to be the

My ſketch, ſure, moſt clearly, muſt THORNTON* diſp
His name I inſert, as it honours my Lay;

caſe. They left behind them 4 of the Britiſh iron 24 pounders (aba doned on the retreat from *Dunkirk*) and 2 mortars.

In addition to the Britiſh killed and wounded on the 25th, the 42d had on the 29th, 1 ſerjeant killed, and 2 men wounded. The Heſſians had 4 privates killed; 4 officers, 1 ſurgeon, 5 ſerjeants, and 29 privates wounded. Captain WILSON of the Britiſh [illegible]tillery, and about 30 men under his command were conſtantly emplo[illegible], both day and night, and gained the higheſt credit.

From the extent of their encampment, the forces collected for this enterprize, could not have amounted, it was thought, to much leſs than 8,000 [illegible]en. Had Nieuport fallen, the French would have immediately advanced upon Oſtend, where, as it was the principal *depot* of the *Britiſh army*, they would in a *few hours* have burnt the ſtores and ſhipping in that port, which could not poſſibly have been removed. The ſpirited defence, therefore, made by the garriſon of Nieuport, and the timely arrival of Sir CHARLES GREY's forces, ſaved *many millions* to this country.

* The recapture of Menin being ſtill determined upon, as a meaſure abſolutely neceſſary; reinforcements were ſent to Lieut. Gen. BUSHE, who had regained the poſt of *Moucron*; and Genl. WALMODEN was directed on the 29th to advance upon the town, while General BUSHE, with his corps, attacked *Mount Hallum*. To create a diverſion, and draw the attention of the Republicans from the real object of the confederates, two battalions of Auſtrians, with two twelve-pounders and ſome howitzers; under the command of Major General *Werneck*, with the flank battalion, and that of the 3d regiment of Britiſh guards, a ſquadron of the 11th, and one of the 15th light dragoons, with alſo two 12-pounders and ſome howitzers, forming a detatchment under the direction of General ABERCROMBIE, proceeded to attack *Lannoi*, which the French having defended by entrenchments, occupied with a force of 1,500 men. The twelve-pounders were brought up within a ſmall diſtance of the town, and a briſk, and well directed fire commenced, which was anſwered by the French; Captain SUTHERLAND acting as engineer in chief, was ſtruck by a cannon ball, while riding in front of the 3d regiment of guards, he ſurvived his wound but a few moments. Lieutenant THORNTON had the direction of one of the twelve-pounders, from which he had, with great effect, kept up an uninterrupted fire upon the enemy; it was thought right to bring up to that point a howitzer, and the moment his gun was ſilenced *on that account*, he perceived the French artil-

‹ tho' true to its aim, was the miſchievous ball,
›at he ſtill may ſurvive, is the wiſh of us all.
›'e've to mourn too the fall of our chief engineer,
›rg'd by zeal forth he ſallied, a brave Volunteer!
Much merit accompanied *Sutherland's Shade*,
And dearly, alas, for his valour we've paid.
So alluring his manners, full many a tear,
When his fate is ann[illegible]nced, will be dropp'd on his bier.
As Grimalkin prowls forth, when by ſhadows of night,
Conceal'd, timid mouſe from thy far piercing ſight;
With caution draws near, of her prey making ſure,
When moſt ſhe had fancied the covert ſecure:
Or, as ſportſmen in ſilence the thickets ſurround,
And ſpread their cloſe nets, when the covey they've found.

lery-men *traverſe* the one oppoſed to him; and they took an aim ſo accurate, that his right arm was carried off upon the firſt diſcharge.

Upon the guns being advanced ſtill nearer to the town, the French in garriſon gave way, filing off in two diviſions towards *Lille*, and towards *Roubaix*. The light dragoons were called for, and purſued them, charging over *trees* which had been cut down, forming a kind of abbatis before the place. Nearly 100 men were killed and wounded by the cavalry, and they returned with 59 made priſoners. The Auſtrians took alſo near 100 priſoners, and the Gazettes computed the total loſs of the Republicans at between 2 and 300 men in killed. The Imperialiſts and Britiſh troops ſuffered but little in compariſon, as the place was carried entirely by a *cannonade*; and the infantry, forming to protect the guns, were but little expoſed; only 2 privates of the guards were wounded, 1 private of the light dragoons was killed, and 5 were wounded. Lieutenant RUTHERFORD of the engineers, advanced with the light cavalry, and, miſtaken for a Frenchman, owing to his wearing at the time over his uniform a *plain blue* ſurtout, received a coup de ſabre on the head from one of the *Britiſh* light dragoons, while humanely endeavouring to ſave the life of a wounded Republican officer.

As is not unfrequently the caſe, the *feint attack* was *here* more ſerious than that which it was alone intended to favour, for, the night preceding the affair of *Lannoi*, Menin had been evacuated, and the Republicans retired at the ſame time from before Ypres.

In vain fearful tremblers! ye flutter and beat
Your breaſts 'gainſt the loop-holes, to force a retreat.
No more, for tight drawn, the circuitous ſnare
Shall your pinions reſounding divide the light air:
So, the Auſtrians came pounce on the French at Marchiennes,*
Ere Luna had ſtole to Endymion again.
The double ſnak'd rod had been wav'd o'er each head,
Ev'ry man was ſurpriz'd, and was rous'd from his bed.
Their lives to ſecure, to a convent they flew,
Perceiving the Kaiſers already in view.
At diſcretion ſurrender'd, and mercy was ſhewn,
For a foe once ſubdued, as a foe's no more known.

* Marchiennes, a town within 3 leagues of St. Amand, was ſtill in the poſſeſſion of the Republicans, who had advanced from *Douai.* Eight battalions of Auſtrian infantry were therefore ordered, under General KRAY to march and diſpoſſeſs them. This force, divided into 3 columns, *each* preceded by 2 *officers* and 60 volunteers, ſupported by 300 men, was put in motion, *at midnight* on the 29th, and at the ſame time, *four columns* were detached by General OTTO, from *Denain ſur l' Eſcaut*, that the place might be aſſaulted on all ſides *at once.* The latter troops were, however, diſcovered by the French *picquets.* and prevented from accompliſhing their purpoſe. Thoſe under General KRAY, one column keeping along the Chauſſée leading from *Orchies*, and the others advancing upon *their left*, arrived, without being perceived, within a ſhort diſtance of *Marchiennes.* The volunteers heading the firſt column, fell in with a picquet about 200 yards from the gate of Orchies, and, bayonetting the greater part of them, purſued thoſe who fled ſo cloſely, that they entered the town before the alarm was given. The French aſſembled in confuſion in the market-place, and afterwards took ſhelter in a convent, where they offered to capitulate, and ſurrendered priſoners of war to the number of 1629; upon their officers being permitted to wear their ſide-arms. Twelve pieces of cannon, and 22 tumbrils taken in the town, were the next morning brought to the Britiſh camp, near *Campbain.* General KRAY's corps loſt between 70 and 80 men in killed and wounded: the French priſoners eſtimated the loſs on their ſide at nearly 300.

Thus Flanders is clear'd;* and thus gloriously ends
This Campaign, and we visit *the Fathers*, our friends.

* Thus was frustrated the menaced invasion of the low countries in every direction, and the late season of the year, as well as the heavy rains then prevalent, induced Prince COBOURG to determine upon placing the troops in winter quarters. Those with the Duke of YORK by continually *marching* and *counter-marching*, were much harrassed, though they had not, since the retreat from Dunkirk, been as much *in fire* as their allies.

Such was the wetness of the season, while they were encamped near Camphain, that the soldiers every morning might be seen *lading* the water from their tents by *hat-fulls*; they were but scantily provided with *straw*, and consequently fell rapidly sick; two or three men of the guards were so affected, that they dropped down and died, when formed on the parade *for picquet!* one in particular was a corporal of the 3d regiment, who, the preceeding day, appeared in perfect health. The general hospital at Tournay was filled with invalids, and the inattention to their comforts, which has since arisen to such a shameful height, was even at that early period of the war conspicuous in the *medical* depratment. Two men were often placed in the same bed, the one complaining of a *dysentery*, the other of a *putrid fever*; death to both patients usually ensued from such *ignorance*, added to other instances of inhuman treatment and neglect, and the mortality was consequently *great*. *Sour Burgundy*, which was substituted for *port wine*, as it could be purchased at the rate of about ten-pence a bottle, was the only liquor served out to the sick, heightening *in general* their disorders; and a *regimental surgeon* who had the *weakness* to feel for his suffering fellow creatures, passing through the hospital one day, when absent from the camp, to visit the patients of his own battalion, was called on to procure them *water* to moisten their parched lips, as they had not, they declared, for many hours, been furnished with a drop of any kind of liquid!

"*Quis talia fando, temperet a lachrymis.?*"

The British army entered their winter cantonments on the 9th of Nov. the heavy cavalry, and *infantry* battalions, occupying *Tournay*, where there were extensive barracks.

The accounts of the operations on the left banks of the Rhine continued favourable; on the 25th of October, the right wing of the army before Strasbourg was completely routed by General WURMSER's corps, with a loss of 14 pieces of artillery, a great quantity of tents and military stores; the Austrians by this victory gained also an important position at *Wantzenau*, within two leagues of Strasbourg. WURMSER was in his turn attacked in various points upon the 27th, but repulsed his assailants, and the loss sustained by the Republicans, in both engagements,

To-morrow, in triumph, we enter Tournay,
The *cooks* and the *mules* are already away.
My laurels, ſweet Girl, ſoon expect at your feet!
In the curricle, how we ſhall daſh thro' each ſtreet!
Make ready the elegant neat vis-a-vis,
That holds ſo exactly my LUCY and me;
Trim—but halt, ſilly pen, nor preſume to declare,
All the boundleſs delight I ſhall taſte with my Fair!

was computed at not leſs, in killed, wounded, and miſſing, than 3,000 men.

Fort Louis was bombarded on the 10th of November, and, after ſuſtaining a ſiege of four days, ſurrendered to the Auſtrians, who had 24 men killed before the place, and about 30 wounded; the garriſon conſiſted of 4,000 men, they were made priſoners of war, and 112 pieces of artillery of different callibres; 15 caiſſons, and a large ſupply of live ſtock, fell alſo into the hands of the beſiegers.

To return to the low countries, the French had collected in force at *Poperinge*; and Colonel SALIS, the commandant of Ypres, with a part of his garriſon, ſallied forth in order to diſlodge them, on the 16th of November: without any loſs on his ſide, he took poſſeſſion of the poſt, making 4 officers, and 40 privates, priſoners of war; the main body having retreated upon the firſt appearance of his troops.

END OF VOL. I.

DIRECTIONS

TO THE BINDER

FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

VOLUME I.

Auſtrian Foot Soldier, front figure, to face the Title.

Favourite Amuſement at Head Quarters, - - - - to face - page 88

Council of War interrupted, - - - - - - - - - - ——— - - - 101

VOLUME II.

Auſtrian Foot Soldier, back figure, to face the Title.

How to throw an Army into Confuſion, - - - to face - page 36

Perils by Sea, - - - - - - - - - - - - - - ——— - - - 50

ERRATA IN VOL. I.

Page 28, line 15, *for* Keyſers, *read* Kaiſers.

Page 37, line 4, *for* Keyſerlicks, *read* Kaiſerliche, and ſo throughout.